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Otsego food service staff earn ServSafe certification

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

Otsego Public Schools' food service staff set a new standard this year.

Every member of the department earning a Managerial ServSafe Certification—a nationally recognized credential in food safety and handling.

According to district officials, this marks the first time in Otsego history that all food service employees have been certified at this level.

Typically, only building head cooks are required to earn the certification. In addition, all staff completed allergen-training to better recognize and respond to dietary needs.

Food Service Director Julie Guthrie said the achievement reflects both the team's commitment to students and the standards of the district's meal program.

Under the State of Michigan Food Code, food service establishments are required to have at least one certified food protection manager on site. Guthrie noted that Otsego went significantly beyond the minimum expectations.

Otsego Public Schools food services staff show off the certificates they earned through the Managerial ServSafe program, which involves food safety and handling. (Photo provided)

"It is required that one person is certified per building or establishment," she said. "We have had all of our Head Cooks certified in the past but this year decided that everyone should have the knowledge and training needed to be ServSafe Certified, not just the building supervisors."

To earn the credential, staff completed an eight-hour training course followed by an 80-question exam. A score of 70 percent is required to pass. Guthrie said the group not only met that mark, but far exceeded it.

"Our lowest score was a 92 percent," she said.

Guthrie, who has been ServSafe certified for at least 20 years, said having the entire team certified benefits the district in multiple ways.

"The information provided and tested in ServSafe ensures that staff recognize potential hazards and how to remedy those hazards," she said. "It allows us to trust that all food is being received, handled, prepared and cooked to the highest standard of food safety. It also gives my staff confidence in their abilities to serve a safe, nutritious product to our students."

In addition to ServSafe, Guthrie said all food service staff completed allergen-training, which she described as increasingly important as more students require dietary accommodations.

"This allows them to recognize common allergens in food and how to properly handle food to avoid cross contamination," she said. "This is so helpful as the amount of students we serve with special dietary needs has increased in recent years.

"It is with confidence that we can tell our parents that we are trained to take care of their child and their food needs."

While ServSafe certification is not mandated for every K-12 food service employee, Guthrie said her team didn't hesitate when given the option.

"I am so proud of my staff and the initiative they take to make sure our students get the best that we can provide," she said. "They truly care for the students and this certification just speaks to the level of commitment they have."

Plainwell seeks public feedback on proposed Papermill site development

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

The City of Plainwell is asking residents to share their thoughts on a proposed commercial development at the former Plainwell Papermill property.

Public feedback will be collected during the Plainwell City Council meeting on Monday, Jan. 26, at 7 p.m. At that meeting, the council is expected to consider whether to sell approximately one acre of City-owned property to Plainwell Auto for commercial development.

According to information released by the City, Plainwell Auto is interested in purchasing the parcel to construct a new building and relocate its existing business to that site. The land in question is part of the former papermill property that has since been cleaned to commercial standards, making it eligible for redevelopment.

City officials emphasized that no decision has been made regarding the sale. Instead, the council is seeking community input before determining whether to authorize the transaction.

During Monday's meeting, the City Council plans to:

* Consider the potential sale of approximately one acre of papermill property to Plainwell Auto;

* Review Plainwell Auto's preliminary building plans; and

* Conduct other regular City business.

Renderings and site layouts of the proposed project have been provided by the City to help residents understand the scope of the request, including the footprint of the building and its placement on the parcel.

City officials say they are specifically hoping to hear:

* What residents think about the proposal;

* Any concerns about the project; and

* Any support for selling the property for this purpose.

Residents are encouraged to attend Monday night's meeting to share feedback directly with council members.

The former papermill complex has been the focus of long-term cleanup and redevelopment planning since the mill ceased operations in 2000.

The City acquired the property in 2006 and has since converted portions of the site for public use—including municipal offices—while continuing environmental remediation and infrastructure improvements throughout the remaining areas.

The goal has been to position sections of the site for future private development as they become commercially viable.

Here is a rendering of what an auto parts store could look like at the former Plainwell Papermill property. (Photo provided)

Christian Neighbors offers 'Story Hour Cook' for young chefs

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

If your child enjoys stories and isn't afraid to get a little flour on their sleeves, Christian Neighbors has an event that might be right up their alley.

At 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 24, Christian Neighbors will host its next Story Hour Cook class at its Demo Kitchen, located at 282 12th Street in Plainwell.

The program invites children in second through fifth grades—accompanied by an adult partner—to learn basic cooking skills while exploring food and nutrition through a themed picture book.

For this session, participants will read *Cora Cooks Pancit* by Dorina Lazo Gilmore and then head into the kitchen to prepare a Filipino noodle dish similar to the one featured in the story. The class typically lasts 60 to 90 minutes and involves hands-on preparation by both child and adult.

There is no cost to participate, but space is limited to 10 children and their adult partners. Registration is required and can be completed at https://forms.gle/1kPzTmGnQyBKsA789.

Organizers ask that participants indicate any allergies or food sensitivities during registration, and note that each child must attend with a responsible adult. A signed waiver is also required.

Story Hour Cook is part of an occasional series offered by Christian Neighbors. Each class features a new book and recipe, giving families a chance to learn about different cultures and cuisines in a kid-friendly way.

Mother/Son Game Night coming to OHS Jan. 30

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

Meet the team, play some games, grab a snack and stick around for tipoff—that's the playbook for this year's Mother/Son Game Night at Otsego High School.

The event is scheduled for Friday, Jan. 30, and will run from 5 to 6:30 p.m. in the high school. The Mother/Son activities lead directly into that night's boys varsity basketball matchup between Otsego and Niles. The Otsego girls varsity game will be played first, with the boys contest serving as the centerpiece for the Mother/Son attendees.

Presented by the Otsego Grad Bash Committee, the evening gives boys in the district a chance to spend time with a special adult in their life—whether it's a mom, grandma or another family member—while also getting to interact with the varsity basketball team.

According to event materials, Mother/Son Night will include games, raffle prizes and refreshments, along with a meet-and-greet and autograph session with the varsity players.

For many younger Bulldogs, that interaction with the team has become one of the most memorable parts of the night, offering a rare chance to get up close with the athletes they cheer for during the season.

Tickets are available for pre-purchase at a rate of $15 per family or $20 at the door. Families can also register online through a link provided by Otsego Public Schools.

In past years, Mother/Son Night has featured short games or challenges set up in the hallways or cafeteria spaces of the high school, giving participants a chance to rotate between stations before filing into the gym for the varsity contest.

While activities can vary from year to year, the overall structure remains centered around creating a relaxed, family-friendly atmosphere that blends school spirit with community involvement.

The event also serves as part of the winter fundraising efforts for Grad Bash, the annual end-of-year celebration for Otsego High School seniors.

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Peanut Butter Drive begins under new food collaborative leadership

By Gari Voss

Hungry For Christ is well known for its passion and expertise in food distribution and hunger relief. HFC has taken on the leadership of the Allegan County Food Pantry Collaborative (ACFPC), and has announced two extremely important programs that will assist in meeting the needs of those suffering from food insecurity – the Peanut Butter Drive and the 2nd Annual Puzzle Contest Fundraiser.

The Peanut Butter Drive begins on National Peanut Butter Day, January 24, 2026, and will continue accepting donations of jars of peanut butter and/or monetary donations that will purchase bulk orders of peanut butter until February 28, 2026. There are distribution centers to drop off the jars of peanut butter across Allegan County. Watch the Allegan County Community Foundation (ACCF) at alleganfoundation.org or the Allegan County Community Foundation Facebook page for drop sites.

The 2nd Annual Puzzle Contest Fundraiser will be February 19, 2026, from 6:30-8pm at 4565 135th Avenue in Hamilton. Registration is required through Hungry For Christ on their Facebook page or call 269 264-1307. There is a suggested donation of a jar of peanut butter and $5. Bring a friend and enjoy the puzzle competition.

The Allegan County Community Foundation (ACCF) and Hungry for Christ (HfC) announced that HFC would begin taking the care and leadership of the Allegan County Food Pantry Collaborative (ACFPC) beginning January 1, 2026. This was referred to as an exciting new chapter for ACFPC.

The ACFPC was launched in 2009 to unite the local food pantries serving communities across Allegan County. This was an effort to strengthen partnerships and maximize resources in meeting the needs of the hungry. The collaborative began as a small coalition that has grown into a strong, county-wide network of 17 pantries and 1 food club. These organized food distribution sites serve thousands of households each year.

"This transition is truly something to celebrate," said Lauren Hunt-Vander-Ploeg, Community Impact Manager at ACCF. "What started as a vision to bring pantries together has blossomed into a powerful network, changing lives every day. We are incredibly proud of this work and confident that Hungry For Christ's leadership will only deepen and expand its impact."

To ensure a smoother transition from ACCF to HFC, ACCF granted an additional $24,000 over 2 years to the ACFPC for the specific purpose of supporting protein needs. In addition, ACCF will continue financial support of the program through the ACFPC foundation funds.

"We are honored and excited to continue the mission of the ACFPC!" said Tracy Brower, Executive Director of Hungry For Christ. "This new endeavor at HFC will not only open doors of opportunity but also expand the footprint of our mission and strengthen our relationships with the community in the fight against hunger. Thank you, Allegan County Community Foundation, for believing in us! Your ongoing commitment, dedication, and faithful generosity truly showcase the heart of the foundation. As you hand off the baton, may we continue to run the race worth fighting for."

As it begins with this new leadership, the Allegan County Food Pantry Collaborative will continue to thrive as a hub for shared resources, best practices, and collective action, ensuring that no family in Allegan County has to face hunger alone.

For more information about the ACFPC or to learn how you can get involved, please contact Hungry For Christ at 269 264-1307.

Brockway retires after 50 years at pharmacy

After more than five decades of dedicated service to patients and the profession of pharmacy, Allegan community member Andrew Brockway is officially retiring from active practice. His remarkable career began in 1972 at Henry Ford Hospital, followed by roles at Wyandotte Hospital in 1974 and Bon Secours in 1976. In 1978, Andy joined Allegan General Hospital - now Beacon Allegan Hospital - where he has been a cornerstone of the pharmacy team for nearly 48 years.

Throughout his career, Andy's commitment to patient care and his passion for advancing pharmacy services have left an indelible mark on the Allegan community. His expertise and leadership have guided countless patients and colleagues, supporting the hospital's mission to provide exceptional care.

Although Andy is stepping away from his professional role, his dedication to the hospital and community remains unwavering. Today, you'll find him volunteering at the hospital every Thursday, greeting patients and visitors with the same energy and professionalism that defined his career. Recently, Andy was elected to the reinstated community board of Beacon Allegan Hospital, where he continues to advocate for expanded services and improved care for local residents.

Wayland Union High School presents Checking In

By Gari Voss

The theater students at Wayland Union High School are ready to check in. That is, they will check in with the one-act play, Checking In by Tracy Wells. The production takes Main Stage at the Wayland Union Fine Arts Center, 870 E. Superior St.in Wayland on Thursday, January 22, and Friday, January 27, 2026, at 7pm.

A recap of the action states, "At the Regency Arms Hotel, the comfort of the guests comes first—and no one knows that better than bellhop Bernard and housekeeper Natasha. But while Bernard tries to woo Natasha and manage the guests' luggage, it's the other baggage the guests bring that keeps him on his toes! Checking In tells a lifetime of stories including an expectant mom going into labor, a teenager learning to see the world beyond a screen, a couple finding love, the craziness of traveling with kids, and, finally, waiting too long to take that dream vacation. These stories reflect the theme that "life is a journey—travel it well" and remind us that as we travel through life, it's the people we journey with who make it special."

Tickets can be purchased for $6 at the door or @ WUFACTickets.Ludus.

Faces in the Crowd

By G C Stoppel

The recent shootings in Minneapolis, Minnesota and Portland, Oregon, along with the rising tensions between liberals and conservatives is worrisome. Some people believe we are on the brink of another civil war. Your thoughts, please:

-Man near the hardware store in Fennville. "Yup. Afraid so. It's scary out there, and not just for Hispanics, but everyone. Pretty soon people will react and it won't be pretty."

-Man with him: "Ah, you worry too much. It was like this during Vietnam. You remember when those National Guard soldiers shot students at Kent State? Now, that was a dangerous time."

-Woman outside the Fennville pharmacy: "Me and my husband, we're both concealed carry. If things get bad, we'll defend ourselves if it comes to it. A few years we got into prepping, so we're not worried."

-Woman near the Blue Goose: "It's the only thing in the news, and every time Trump or one of his top people say anything, it gets worse. The scary one is that JD Vance, the Vice President. He just looks mean, and Hegseth looks like he's a dry drunk. Both of them are just spoiling for a fight. If Trump dies in office, look out!"

-Couple near the Allegan County Library; Man: "Like the authorities keep telling people - just comply and do as you're told and you won't get hurt." Woman: "It's the Democrats that always stir things up."

-Woman, same location: "I just hope ICE doesn't come here. It's scary. And you want to know what's worse? ALL of Michigan is under the jurisdiction of the Customs and Border Patrol! They could turn up here, too, and it would be perfectly legal."

-Man near the Allegan Post Office, looks around and said quietly, "Trump is completely deranged. He's a madman and he's going to take the whole country down if he isn't stopped soon. People are afraid to say anything cause they might get narced and then one of those black vans will be coming for them. It's a scary time and it could get a whole lot worse real fast.

-Young man near Allegan City Hall: "I got other things to think about; not about something that's a long way from here."

-Older man, same location: "Civil war? Yeah, I'm sure it'll happen, but I don't know when. Here's what I think. This year at the elections, people will turn on Trump because of the economy, the domestic troubles, you name it. They'll swing the House and Senate to the Democrats. Before they get sworn in, there'll be talk of impeaching Trump. He'll get on the air and use his Truth Social to tell his people to get out and take back the country." When asked, "After that, then what?" the man said, "It won't matter anymore."

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Community Foundation launches children's savings account program

By ACCF Staff & Gari Voss

The Allegan County Community Foundation has begun to launch their new Children's Savings Account (CSA) program made possible with a generous grant from the Community Economic Development Association of Michigan (CEDAM). Thanks to the New Program Development & Administration Grant from CEDAM, ACCF will be able to develop My Future Fund, a CSA program in Allegan County, empowering students to pursue their choice of postsecondary career pathways.

Michigan's CSA programs are community-led initiatives that establish community-wide support systems to encourage students, their families, and entire communities to dream big. CSA programs engage students and their families early on by enrolling them in a community-based savings or investment account where students and their families are encouraged to save and plan for the future. These funds go on to provide financial support for students' endeavors after high school no matter if they choose college, a trade school, career training, or another form of schooling. As part of the Michigan CSA Network, these programs are located throughout the state.

The New Program Development & Administration Grant is specifically to develop, launch, and manage a CSA program, thereby expanding economic opportunities for Michigan's children. With this funding, ACCF has begun to launch My Future Fund, which will establish savings accounts beginning with the 2025-2026 kindergarten students enrolled in Allegan Public Schools, Fennville Public Schools, and Plainwell Community Schools.

The account begins with an initial seed deposit of $65. Monthly "Deposit Days" will be held at each participating elementary building for children to begin saving to learn! Opportunities for incentives will be available annually.

My Future Fund's goals are to maximize educational assets for families, increase post-secondary enrollment rates, and provide resources that encourage financial literacy to our young learners.

"This grant from CEDAM allows us to launch the My Future Fund as a pilot in three local school districts: Allegan, Fennville, and Plainwell,." stated Stephanie Calhoun, President/CEO at the Allegan County Community Foundation. "Our goal is to expand this opportunity to all districts in Allegan County as additional funding/donations become available, so that every child has the tools and support they need to pursue their future."

The launch event for Allegan Public Schools' kindergarten students and their families was on Tuesday, January 13th, 2026, and on Thursday, January 15th for Fennville students. Because of concerns with impeding weather, the launch in Plainwell was cancelled, but Plainwell students will have a chance to enjoy the fun during upcoming events.

Students loved the ACCF Mascot, who is a fun-loving student. At this time, the Mascot has no official name. Once Plainwell students have the opportunity to vote, the ballots will be counted to determine if the Mascot will be Ace, Al or Cash. Stay tuned.

The My Future Fund mascot, whose name is yet to be decided, and President/CEO of the Allegan County Community Foundation (ACCF) Stephanie Calhoun take a moment to participate in a photo opportunity during the Allegan Public School launch of My Future Fund for kindergarten students. The evening not only provided information for parents about the new program but engaged students and their families in math games and activities. Photo: Pamela Armstrong

Those gathered at the launch events enjoyed participating in mathematics activities and were introduced to the program. "All activities were designed around math and counting, making the experience both educational and interactive," said Youth Services Manager, Amanda Chappell. "The families who attended were highly engaged at each station. We were very pleased with the level of engagement."

The My Future Fund is more than just a savings program; it's a long-term investment in the potential of Allegan County's students. Currently grant funds are only available to the kindergarten students in these three districts: Allegan, Fennville, and Plainwell. By beginning with a pilot program, ACCF can better determine how to include all nine school districts in the county. This includes securing the necessary funding for expanding the program.

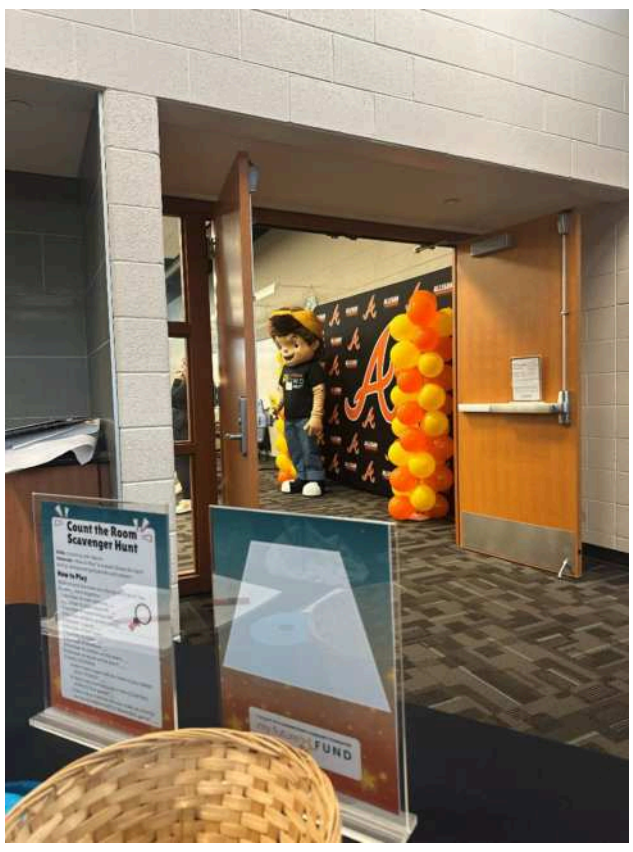
"Deposit Days will begin in February," explained Chappell. "It doesn't matter whether it's fifty cents, five dollars, twenty dollars, or even tooth fairy money. Students are not required to make a deposit every month. And even if a student never makes a deposit, they still have the seed money, which was deposited into every kindergarten student's account."

"This program is designed to grow alongside our community. It supports financial literacy, promotes future planning, and encourages community-wide engagement. Every contribution, whether from a donor, volunteer, school, or local business, helps shape a stronger, more resilient Allegan County for generations to come," stated Stephanie Calhoun, ACCF President and CEO.

My Future Fund currently has funding partnership opportunities to invest in the future of Allegan County beyond the grant period. If you are interested in supporting My Future Fund in your town – contact myfuture@alleganfoundation.org and learn more about the program at https://myfuturefundaccf.org/.

For those new to the Allegan County Community Foundation (ACCF), it was established in 1965 with the first endowment fund created in 1969 by Ethol Stone. By pairing donors' charitable intentions with the needs that exist in Allegan County, ACCF has been able to engage in the unique privilege of a community foundation. The mission of the Allegan County Community Foundation is to positively impact Allegan County through financial stewardship, education and community partnerships.

CEDAM is a nonprofit membership association that strives to build vibrant communities across Michigan. Their capacity-building programs, policy advocacy, and training events emphasize supporting communities in the areas of affordable housing, economic growth, and wealth-building at both the federal and state levels. A number of municipalities across Allegan County have benefited from CEDAM funding.



Genetski warns of fake IRS tax lien letters

Allegan County Clerk and Register of Deeds Bob Genetski warns county residents to be extremely cautious regarding letters that purport to be from the IRS claiming a federal tax lien has been placed in the recipient's name. The letter entitled: IRS DEBT NOTIFICATION looks official but is a scam most likely to steal peoples' personal information.

"Congressman Bill Huizenga's Office reached out to the IRS and confirmed that the letter is a fake," Genetski indicated.

The Clerk-Register was alerted to the scam when numerous worried constituents began calling the Register of Deeds Office to confirm whether or not a lien had been placed on their property.

The Saugatuck Republican noted "the letter looks very official including the legal disclaimer at the top."

County officials encourage those who receive such a letter or similar suspicious mail to call the Register of Deeds Office at (269) 673-0390 or review their land records on the county's online searchable database at https://www.allegancounty.org/departments/register-of-deeds to see if any liens have been place on one's property.

"Do not respond to this letter or any similar scam by giving up personal information over the phone. That is what they are after," warned Genetski.

Community Events

EVENTS TO WATCH FOR!

Sun. – Sat. 5-9pm: Warming Station when temp below 32 degrees - Good Shepherd Church, 101 N. Walnut St. Allegan. Come for a warm spot and a simple meal.

Thurs., Jan. 22, 2026, 4:30pm: Native Seed Sowing Workshop. Allegan Conservation District 2412 Taft Rd. Allegan

Sat., Jan. 24, 2026, 8pm: The Dirty Down Under Comedy Show. Tantrick Down Under 243 Hubbard St. Allegan

Jan. 24, 2026: National Peanut Butter Day

Jan. 24 – Feb. 28, 2026: Peanut Butter Drive. Celebrate Peanut Butter by donating jars of peanut butter or making monetary donations toward a bulk purchase peanut butter for the Allegan Co. Food Pantry Collaborative.

CURRENT EVENTS

Wed., Jan. 21, 2026, 9am-3pm: Diaper Bank
Allegan Community Action 323 Water St. Allegan
Call 269-673-5472 ext. 258, or email diaperbank@communityactionallegan.org.

Wed., Jan. 21, 2026, 5:30-9pm: Down Under Dart League
Tantrick Down Under, 243 Hubbard St. Allegan
Come and join the league or just watch and learn.

Wed., Jan. 21, 2026, 6:30pm: Pub Quiz Trivia
Tantrick Brewing Co. 243 Hubbard St. Allegan
Gather a team of 4-6 knowledgeable friends and enjoy the rounds of trivia. Registration begins at 5:30pm.

Thurs., Jan. 22, 2026, 4:30pm: Native Seed Sowing Workshop
Allegan Conservation District 2412 Taft Rd. Allegan
Register then come with a milk jug to be guided through a simple seed sowing method for native plants. All experience levels are welcome. Register by going to the Conservation District Facebook page.

Thurs., Jan. 22, 2026: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
10:30am: Preschool Storytime. Fun for 3-5 year olds.
6pm: Changing Negative Self-Talk. Start the New Year being kinder to yourself. This MSU Extension workshop explores the brain's negativity bias and how it affects responses to stress. Register at 269 673-4625.

Thurs., Jan 22, 2026, 6-8pm: Euchre Night
Lynz Golf Course 500 Lincoln Rd. Otsego
Nightly buy in, includes season ending tournament pot if meeting minimum participation. Individual players wanted. Blind draw for partners.

Thurs., Jan. 22, 2026, 6:30pm: Music Bingo Thursday
Tantrick Brewing Co, 243 Hubbard St., Allegan
Come for a night of fun playing a twist round of traditional Bingo.

Fri., Jan. 23, 2026, 9am-3pm: Diaper Bank
Allegan Community Action 323 Water St. Allegan
Call 269-673-5472 ext. 258, or email diaperbank@communityactionallegan.org.

Fri., Jan. 23, 2026, 3:30pm: Kids' Cookies and Canvas Paint-a-Squish
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
Register 3rd-7th graders at 269 673-4625 to make a masterpiece of squish stuffie.

Fri., Jan 23, 2026, 4:30-8pm: Fish FRYday
Lynx Golf Course 900 Lincoln Rd. Allegan
Enjoy fried pollack (all you can eat) – served with fries, coleslaw & bread.

Sat., Jan. 24, 2026, 11am: Jumpstart Your Genealogy
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
Drop in and work with genealogist Megan Heyl to hunt down and organize family history.

Sat., Jan. 24, 2026, 8pm: The Dirty Down Under Comedy Show
Tantrick Down Under 243 Hubbard St. Allegan
Doors open at 7pm, show at 8pm. Enjoy the laughs. Purchase tickets at https://www.facebook.com/events/1559865752004499

Sun., Jan. 25, 2026, 3pm: Raise a Glass to Ray Farnum
Tantrick Down Under 243 Hubbard St. Allegan

Mon., Jan. 26, 2026: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
3:30pm: Sing Song Family Yoga. Join Deb Weiss-Gelmi as she combines yoga, music, and literacy together in this unique, engaging, and hands-on experience for kids and their adult caregivers
6pm: Bingo for all. Bring family and friends of all ages to play Bingo and win prizes.

Tues., Jan 27, 2026: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
10:30: Lapsit Storytime. 0-2 year olds can explore stories and activities.
1pm: Friends of the Library Meeting. All are welcome to support the library.
3:30pm: Discover 4H with MSU Extension. Ages 5-12 can drop in to do activities with MSU 4H leaders.

Wed., Jan 28, 2026: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
10am: Play Café. Caregivers can enjoy a cup of coffee and conversation while the young ones play.
6pm: Always Forward: Local Author Talk. Join Cecilia (Adele) Garcia, Allegan author and combat veteran, as she shares her journey from Army service and receiving a Purple Heart, to becoming a mental health advocate.

Wed., Jan 28, 2026, 11am-3pm: House of the Rising Song Café
1st Presbyterian Church 200 Cutler St. Allegan
Come during lunch and listen to great music, have lunch, bring your knitting or a guitar and join the open jam session. Music calms the soul.

Wed., Jan. 28, 2026, 5:30-9pm: Down Under Dart League
Tantrick Down Under, 243 Hubbard St. Allegan
Come and join the league or just watch and learn.

Thurs., Jan. 29, 2026: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
10:30am: Preschool Storytime. Fun for 3-5 year olds.
5:30pm: Puzzle Race. Jan. 29th is National Puzzle Day. Sign up a team and complete the puzzle first. Register at 269 673-4625.

Thurs., Jan. 29, 2026, 6-7pm: Owl Prowl
New Richmond Park 3160 Old Allegan Dam Rd. Fennville
Spend time with ODC exploring owls along the trails. Register at the the ODC website: https://outdoordiscovery.org/programs/#calendar.

Thurs., Jan. 29, 2026, 6:30pm: Music Bingo Thursday
Tantrick Brewing Co, 243 Hubbard St., Allegan
Come for a night of fun playing a twist round of traditional Bingo.

Thurs., Jan 29, 2026, 6-8pm: Euchre Night
Lynz Golf Course 500 Lincoln Rd. Otsego
Nightly buy in, includes season ending tournament pot if meeting minimum participation. Individual players wanted. Blind draw for partners

Fri., Jan 30, 2026, 4:30-8pm: Fish FRYday
Lynx Golf Course 900 Lincoln Rd. Allegan
Enjoy fried pollack (all you can eat) – served with fries, coleslaw & bread.

Sat., Jan 31, 2026, 1pm: Create a Pet Face Shirt
Sassy Olive 125 Locust St. Allegan

Sat., Jan. 31, 2026, 6-8pm: Wine & Canvas
Lynx Golf Course 900 Lincoln Rd. Allegan
Join a professional, friendly local artist for step-by-step instructions on how to recreate a beautiful painting, in a relaxed and fun, artsy environment.

Sat., Jan. 31, 2026, 7pm: Karaoke Night w/DJ Keil
Tantrick Brewing Co, 243 Hubbard St., Allegan
Come and try your luck at the mic!

Wed., Feb. 4, 2026, 9am-3pm: Diaper Bank
Allegan Community Action 323 Water St. Allegan
Call 269-673-5472 ext. 258, or email diaperbank@communityactionallegan.org.

Wed., Feb. 4, 2026, 5:30-9pm: Down Under Dart League
Tantrick Down Under, 243 Hubbard St. Allegan
Come and join the league or just watch and learn.

Thurs., Feb. 5, 2026, 11:30am-1pm: Multi-Chamber Women's Event
Venue Bella Giornata 1835 84th St. SW Byron Center
Connect with other Chamber women for an event with Grace Gavin of Know Honesty. For information, contact Allegan Area Chamber of Commerce, 269 673-2479

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

ASSISTANCE

Addiction Support Group, Thursdays 7-8pm
1900 Lincoln Road, Allegan
Come as you are.

Adventist Community Service Center
218 S. Farmer St. Otsego Tues. 10am-4pm; Thurs. 1-5pm
Clothes for the family and household goods are available, layettes for newborns, clothing, diapers, toys, etc. for babies to 6 mo. For emergency needs, call 269 694-4775 or Marlene 269 217-8293. This is supported by the 7th-Day Adventist Church and an ACCF TAG Grant.

Allegan County Community Action - Assistance for daily living
23 Water Street, Allegan, MI 49010, www.communityactionallegan.org, (269) 673-5472
Food, weatherization, early childhood education.

Allegan Homeless Solutions - Helping eliminate barriers to housing.
108 Grant St., Plainwell MI 49080
www.alleganhomelesssolutions.org, Email: info@alleganhomelesssolutions.org

The Arc of Allegan County - Advocates for people with disabilities
219 Hubbard Street, Allegan 269 673-8841
Mission to advocate for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the community.

Baby Closet – Newborn Clothing and Supplies
Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 101 N. Walnut Street Allegan
Call 269 673-2254 and leave a message.

Christian Neighbors - Food, Education, Emergency Financial Assistance
282 12th Street Plainwell MI 49080 (269) 685-4166
Monday: Drive-thru only - 10am-12pm and 4pm-6pm.
Tuesday: In person shopping/walk ins - 10am-12pm
Thursday: In person shopping/walk ins - 2pm-5pm
We have been providing services to the Plainwell, Otsego and Martin areas since 1983.

Community Clothes Closet – Free Clothing and More
Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 101 N. Walnut Street, Allegan (269) 673-2254
Open Thursdays & Fridays, 10am – 1pm A wide selection of clothing for all ages is available.

Grief Support Groups
Wings of Hope invites all to a welcoming and compassionate gathering. 1st Monday of the month – 6-7:30pm, Wings of Hope Office, 530 Linn St., Allegan; 2nd Tues. of each month – 12:30-2pm, United Methodist Church, 322 Maple St., Hopkins; 3rd Monday of each month – 3-4:30pm, Ransom District Library, 189 S. Sherwood Ave., Plainwell; 4th Tues., Grief Support Luncheon, 1pm, Salvino's 1290 M89, Plainwell.

Interfaith Sunday Services
Mothers Trust is a nonprofit that is offering inclusive, interfaith worship services open to all Sundays at 11am at 6676 122nd Ave. Fennville. Information: Megan Hybels 269 312-0369, megan_h@motherstrust.org

Love, Inc.
Love in the Name of Christ 4621 135th Ave. Hamilton
For assistance with food, personal care items, baby needs, household items, clothing, appliances, furniture, bicycles, laundry, showers & Life Skills Wrap Around Care, call 269 751-2533. Visit www.loveincnwa.org., email: office@loveincnwa.org.

People Helping People of Pullman
Assistance by appt. 269 236-6295

Safe Harbor Children's Advocacy Center - Abuse Prevention and Healing
404 Sherman St., Allegan, MI 49010 www.safeharborcac.org, (269) 673-3791

St. Vincent de Paul-St. Margaret Conference - Food and More
St. Vincent de Paul 124A W. Allegan St. Otsego
Mon.: 1-3pm Tues. & Thurs: 10am to noon Wed.: 3-5pm
Food pantry and limited financial aid. Dtvincentdepaul9005@gmail.com
Serves Otsego, Plainwell and Martin School Districts

Sylvia's Place - Safe from Domestic Violence
Crisis Line: 269 673-8700

United Church of Wayland - Free Clothing
1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month, 4 - 6pm
411 E Superior St. in Wayland

Wings of Hope Hospice & Palliative Care - End of Life Care
530 Linn Street, Allegan, MI 49010, www.wingsofhopehospice.com, (269) 686-8659

Martin Township is currently taking applications for a treasurer.

Applicant is to reside in Township of Martin. Must have understanding of banking and finance, book keeping and tax collecting. Must also have experience with Excel and other computer programs. Please send resume to Martin Township, PO Box 27, Martin MI 49070 or email to jwharton@martintownship.org.

OVERISEL TOWNSHIP CLERK POSITION

Overisel Township is seeking a qualified person to appoint as the Overisel Township Clerk to fulfill the remaining term of the position until the election in November 2026. If so desired to continue the position, they will need to run for office in 2026. The Township Clerk position is part time & salaried.

A Township Clerk is responsible for accounts payables, payroll, records management, and is responsible for all Federal, State and Local Elections. You must be an Overisel Township Resident to be eligible to apply. Desirable skills include: accounting, computer and customer service.

If you have an interest in this position, please send your resume to clerk@overiseltownship.org.

Thank you.
The Overisel Township Board

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Fennville designated as "redevelopment ready" by MEDC

For its efforts in establishing a solid foundation to attract private investment and further build on municipal assets, Fennville has been awarded the Redevelopment Ready Communities (RRC) certification, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) announced.

MEDC officially designates Fennville as a Certified RRC in Michigan. Fennville now joins a distinguished group of 87 Michigan communities from all regions of the state that have qualified as "thoroughly prepared" in their planning and zoning efforts. This designation aims to eliminate traditional barriers and foster opportunities for potential investment. For a complete list of RRCs, visit miplace.org.

"Our mission at MEDC is to support Michigan's strong economic momentum and empower communities to establish a strong planning, zoning and economic development foundation," said MEDC SVP of Community Planning and Development Readiness Michele Wildman. "The City of Fennville is well positioned to continue to implement their vision for the future and further improve the quality of life for its residents. We look forward to building upon our relationship with the City of Fennville and supporting local economic development efforts."

As an RRC participant, the City of Fennville received a comprehensive assessment that measured current community and economic development practices compared to RRC best practice standards. Communities leverage the RRC toolkit to integrate transparency, predictability, and efficiency into local economic development practices. Certification is a compelling indicator that a community has removed development barriers and streamlined processes to be more competitive and attractive for investment.

"This recognition by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation reflects our team's commitment to building a more transparent, investor-ready, and community-driven development environment," said City Administrator Katie Beemer. "The work we've accomplished through RRC—strengthening our policies, engagement plans, and redevelopment tools—has positioned Fennville to attract strategic investments that support our long-term goals and preserve what makes our community special. Fennville's Redevelopment Ready Communities certification reflects more than just a process—it represents real progress for our residents. It shows that our city is not only open for business, but also intentional about how we grow."

As a certified community, Fennville will have access to new tools to implement its community development goals as well as ongoing support and technical assistance from the RRC team. Annual check-ins and updates will help ensure the city continues implementing the best practices over time. Certification is active for five years before needing to be renewed.

"Earning Redevelopment Ready Communities Certification is a proud milestone for the City of Fennville," said Mayor Carlos Lopez. "The Redevelopment Ready Communities program has helped us lay the groundwork for development that reflects our values and benefits everyone who calls Fennville home. This recognition by the MEDC affirms that we're ready to welcome investments that strengthen our downtown, support local businesses, and improve quality of life for our entire community."

Laketown OKs pay hikes, postpones road work

By Jim Hayden
Correspondent

The Laketown Township Board Jan. 14 approved 3-percent pay increases for its members during the upcoming fiscal year April 1 through March 31, 2027.

The supervisor, clerk and treasurer will each make $18,030 for the year. Trustees will each make $5,464.

In other business, the board:

• Postponed paving 61st Street north of 138th Avenue from 2026 to 2027 due to delays by the Allegan County Road Commission in acquiring easements, according to Sspervisor Steven Ringelberg. The dead-end is one of the few dirt roads left in the township.

• Approved zoning ordinance changes proposed by the planning commission.

• Approved the 2026 Poverty Exemption Resolution as recommended by assessor Don Jollay. For complete information on this exemption, contact Jollay at don@laketowntwp.org.

• Approved the board meeting schedule for 2026-2027. Members will meet at 5 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month and 6 p.m. on the second Wednesday. Meetings are at the township hall, 4338 Beeline Road.

• Postponed the manager review until the board's March meeting.

• Agreed to have trustee Mike Koeman and supervisor Ringelberg meet with manager Stephanie Fox to refine the manager's goals for 2026-2027.

Book Review: 99 Ways to Die

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Whew! You dodged a bullet there.

The test came out well, you made the right call, your reaction time was lightning-fast, a decision came quick, and you saved yourself and the situation. Take a deep breath. You'll live to fight another day, and with **"99 Ways to Die" by Ashely Alker, MD,** you'll know what to watch out for tomorrow.

As "a board-certified death escapologist" who works in emergency rooms, Dr. Alker has seen it all – including things that are "terrifying, interesting, and unfortunate." She's fully aware of a lot of ways for the average human to leave this Earthly life.

Many of them are unnecessary, which is why she wrote this cautionary book.

Say, for example, you have a rash that you can't explain. You didn't lie in poison ivy or rub a Carolina Reaper on your skin. Better check with a dermatologist. That rash might be something mild – or it could be leprosy.

That leftover pizza on the counter looks good the next day, but don't eat it. It could lead to botulism or another deadly food poisoning. Think an expired medicine is safe? It might be – or it might poison you. Do you really want to take a chance?

Stay away from wild animals, especially monkeys and bats. If you're merely *in a room* with a bat, in fact, go directly to the hospital and get an anti-rabies vaccine. Don't let yourself get too hot or too cold. Don't lean on car doors during a lightning storm. Stay away from spiders, scorpions, and pretty much everything in the ocean and in Australia.

Swimming in a non-chlorinated pool of water can be dangerous, Alker says, especially if you get the water in your nose. Get vaccinated for tetanus, polio, hepatitis, measles, Covid-19, and whatever else your doctor recommends. Don't *ever* minimize chest pain. To be totally safe, don't sleep around and don't get pregnant, she says.

And finally, "be nice to scientists; they have access to prehistoric zombie viruses."

Of course, you want to live a long and healthy life. You know how to do that. Kind of. But what about the chancy things you do, the ones you don't know might kill you? What about the ones you find inside "99 Ways to Die"?

Serious, and seriously funny, author Ashely Alker, MD guides readers through all the risky things that humans do, and exactly why we should not do them. Her first-hand ER stories are wildly interesting to read, and the information she offers is solid despite a gleefully wicked sense of humor that doesn't hold back. Having this book will help keep you alive and it's really a lot of fun to read – even if doing or avoiding some of the things you'll learn are dangerous is sometimes no fun at all.

Grown-up readers of any age can find something in this book to learn and follow. though beware: there's certainly some controversy here. Still, you can't live without what you find in "99 Ways to Die," so give it a shot.

All the books the Bookworm reviews here are available at the sponsor of this column:

Allegan District Library

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

SALUTE TO PROFESSIONAL SERVICES:
SUPPORTING ALLEGAN COUNTY BEHIND THE SCENES

Across Allegan County, professional service providers work quietly behind the scenes to keep communities running smoothly. Accountants, attorneys, bankers, real estate professionals, insurance agents, engineers, consultants, and many others provide the expertise that helps individuals, families, and businesses navigate both major milestones and everyday decisions.

Professional services play a vital role in local life. They help families buy homes, plan for retirement, manage estates, and protect what matters most. They assist entrepreneurs as they open new businesses, guide established companies through expansion, and help employers adapt to changing regulations and economic conditions. While much of this work happens outside the public spotlight, its impact is visible in strong businesses, stable neighborhoods, and thoughtful community growth.

These professions are built on trust and long-standing relationships. Many local professionals serve clients they have known for years, and in some cases, generations. They understand the unique needs of Allegan County's towns and rural communities, and they bring both technical knowledge and a personal connection to their work. Whether guiding a client through a complex legal matter, helping a family secure financing, or offering financial advice during uncertain times, their role often extends far beyond a simple transaction.

Professional service providers also play an important role in civic life. Many volunteer their time, serve on nonprofit boards, support youth programs, and contribute their expertise to community organizations. Others offer pro bono or reduced-cost services when neighbors face hardship, ensuring that professional guidance remains accessible when it is needed most.

The value of professional services becomes especially clear during periods of change or uncertainty. As laws evolve, markets shift, and new opportunities emerge, these professionals help residents and businesses move forward with confidence. Their ability to provide clarity, stability, and sound advice helps Allegan County remain resilient.

At the Allegan County News, Commercial Record, and Union Enterprise, we recognize the dedication of those working in professional services across our county. Today, we salute their knowledge, integrity, and commitment to serving others. Their work helps build a strong foundation for Allegan County, supporting progress today and well into the future.

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The roadblocks to a cancer cure are frustrating

MIKE'S MUSINGS

MIKE WILCOX
■ PUBLISHER ■

Every few years, the same frustrated question resurfaces: With all the money, technology and brainpower in the world, why haven't we cured cancer yet? It's a fair question. We've put men on the moon, decoded the human genome and carry supercomputers in our pockets. Surely cancer should be history by now.

The uncomfortable truth is this: cancer isn't one disease. It's hundreds of diseases, each behaving differently, mutating constantly and adapting in ways that make it one of the most complex challenges modern medicine has ever faced.

When people talk about "curing cancer," they often imagine a single breakthrough—a miracle drug or treatment that wipes it out once and for all. But cancer doesn't work that way. Breast cancer is not lung cancer. Leukemia is not pancreatic cancer. Even two patients with the same diagnosis can respond very differently to the same treatment. Cancer is personal, genetic and, at times, maddeningly unpredictable.

That complexity alone would make a cure difficult. But it is not the only obstacle. Bureaucracy has also played a significant—and often underappreciated—role in slowing progress. This is where actual progress is stalled. Federal agencies, reporting requirements, and the regulatory progress in this writer's view have made it almost impossible to find a cure. In my mind many of these restrictions must be lifted.

Medical research is governed by layers of regulation, oversight committees, institutional review boards, funding gatekeepers and federal agencies. While many of these safeguards exist to protect patients, they also create delays that can stretch promising discoveries into decade-long approval processes. A treatment that shows real promise in a laboratory may take 10 to 15 years before it ever reaches patients, assuming it survives the maze of paperwork, trials and regulatory hurdles.

Researchers often spend as much time applying for grants, complying with reporting requirements and navigating administrative rules as they do conducting actual science. Innovative ideas can die not because they don't work, but because they don't fit neatly into funding criteria or established research models. Risk-taking—the kind that often leads to breakthroughs—is frequently discouraged by systems that reward caution and predictability.

The regulatory process for new cancer drugs is another bottleneck. Clinical trials are expensive, slow and highly controlled. While patient safety must always come first, critics argue that the system sometimes errs too far on the side of delay, keeping potentially life-saving treatments out of reach for patients who have run out of options. Compassionate-use programs exist, but they are often buried under red tape and inconsistent rules.

Then there's the issue of incentives. Pharmaceutical companies operate within bureaucratic and financial frameworks that don't always reward cures. Long-term treatments can be more profitable than one-time solutions, and navigating approval systems can discourage smaller companies or independent researchers from entering the field at all.

Cancer also mutates. A treatment that works today may fail tomorrow because surviving cells adapt and become resistant. That's why cancer care often involves combinations of surgery, radiation, chemotherapy, immunotherapy and targeted drugs. Doctors aren't throwing everything at the wall—they're trying to stay one step ahead of a constantly evolving enemy.

Prevention adds another layer of frustration. Many cancers are linked to smoking, poor diet, inactivity, environmental exposure and delayed screenings. Addressing those risks requires public policy changes, education campaigns and regulatory courage—areas where bureaucracy often moves slowly and cautiously, even when the science is clear.

This saddens me. Thousands die from some form of cancer each year, yet we can't, as a government or bureaucracy get a handle on all these roadblocks to a cure. I also can't understand why people continue to smoke knowing it is a death wish.

Perhaps the better question isn't why cancer hasn't been cured—but why we expect a single cure at all. The future likely lies in thousands of personalized treatments, faster approval pathways and a system that trusts doctors and patients to make informed decisions sooner rather than later.

Cancer hasn't been cured yet because it is extraordinarily complex—and because the systems built to manage risk and process innovation often move slower than the disease itself. We need to flip the script and get out in front of the disease.

Life as Performance Art

1-22 Stoppel-cr

G CORWIN STOPPEL

By G.C. Stoppel

Twice, in less than 12 hours and from two different sources, I heard basically the same message on how to deal with the swirling chaos in much of the news.

The first was when I watched the French television mystery series "Astrid." The main character is a high-functioning autistic and Paris police detective. She is a genius with a photographic memory and can often find the answers to the crime of the week.

Brilliant but imperfect, because certain normal things spike her stress level. To monitor herself she keeps 10 plastic beads in one pocket, shifting them to another when she is under too much pressure.

When her supply of beads runs low, just before she runs out of them and hits bottom, she steps out of the situation to mentally and emotionally regroup.

The second came when a friend said a Buddhist teacher had told his disciples about the one grain of rice method. Each grain is symbolically used to enumerate the challenging and dreadful news in the world, nation, state and locally, as well as one's own life.

One challenge or worry means one grain. Many people, he observed, try carrying an ever-increasing load of rice. He teaches that a better way is to focus on the far-more manageable one grain of rice.

Pick or discern one thing, preferably something upon which we can make a positive impact, and leave behind everything else. If it's something about which we can't do anything, cast it away and pick something new.

When my friend finds her mind swirling like a whirlwind, she focuses on one grain. In time she stabilizes her thinking and is better able to make favorable changes in one situation. Then she is better equipped to move to the second.

These are two different but similar methods on how to deal with the challenges in our world. I like that line of thinking.

It is hard to make sense of some big and important things happening in our world. Making matters worse is the prattle that accompanies every drip and drab of a news article. It's known as commentary, but basically it is a talking head who tries to explain the situation to fit their agenda, intended audience, or satisfy their advertisers.

These professional spin doctors travel in packs, and their drivel becomes more irksome when several are talking over and at each other at the same time. It is meant to make the topic seem even more important.

Bad news always sells. Think about TV weather forecasts. It isn't called "Good weather tonight" for a reason. A viewer would hear that introduction and feel they already know anything important. Use the words severe, dangerous, storm or something else, and people listen.

My favorite came when a west Michigan meteorologist said, "Right after these words from our sponsor, we'll see if this weekend will bring this year's blizzard of the century." The whole idea is to keep viewers watching the advertisements.

The phrase "breaking news" also spikes our stress leveI. Often such stories are hours old and as stale as coffee we pour down the drain.

Which brings us back to the beads and rice. Yes, some news is important and involves things we need to know. But we don't need to absorb or be concerned about everything. It only matters to us as individuals if there is something we can do about it.

Remember the Olds telling us "Finish your vegetables; there are starving children in Africa." Yes, there were indeed children going hungry half a world away, but a few forkfuls of vegetables is not going to be shipped to anywhere and make a difference. It was a cheap shot that one generation of Olds learned from the ones before them. What did work is when one of the Olds gave a plausible explanation on the delight of spinach "Look what it does for Popeye."

Of course, there are ways of working around them. Being a creative anarchist, after hearing the message about vegetables and starving kids, I decided to join the Clean Plate Club and then ask for seconds. The Olds didn't know what to do with me.

Adding to the more-traditional news sources are the "citizen journalists" and influencers who fill social media with their contributions. Rather than think they are brilliant or write them off as cranks, remember the dictum "Follow the money."

They do their work hoping to make money, and there is nothing wrong with that. Even so, they can raise our stress and anxiety. So, just where is their money coming from?

In addition to following the money, it's important to following agendas back to their source. Who is saying what, for what reason? What is their agenda?

Finally, we have to deal with our own agendas. Many people live any state of FOMA, fear of missing out. We do not want to be the only person in our group who isn't up to date on the latest trends, whether it is fashion, entertainment, the economy or politics. Rather, there's a competition within a group so that one person can elevate his or her status by being the first to know something and tell others.

Obviously, we cannot go off the grid and ignore all the news. That was possible before electronic media platforms. A person in a remote area rarely heard late breaking news because it was already old by the time it got to them.

That's what happened at the Battle of New Orleans on Jan. 8, 1815. The War of 1812 peace treaty had been signed in Europe weeks earlier, but the news had not reached this continent. Hundreds of soldiers were killed or wounded as a result.

Nor would it be wise for us to intentionally absent ourselves from people who or events that have a tremendous influence on our lives. We might miss some very good things.

That means we must be selective in how much time and energy we want to devote to following current events and listening to the talking heads.

That is up to you. If you want to follow TV news around the clock, it is your choice. Just keep in mind, that as with the old adage about food, when it comes to news, we are what we absorb. When it becomes over-whelming, remember Astrid's white plastic beads or my friend's single grain of rice.

Instead of being a sponge absorbing everything, be discerning. Then, when it still seems a bit overwhelming, it might help to give some serious thought to the rice and beans.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor's musings hide his partisan politics

To The Editor

It has been interesting watching editor Wilcox craftily hide a partisan politic the last couple years. His musings often make sense on the surface covering issues many are concerned about, like the one about money in politics. The gist of it of course was about billionaires buying politicians. However the line "like George Soros" was revealing as the only billionaire mentioned. Clever, yes? The line implied all the right-wing, anti-liberal rhetoric without actually saying it. In a very right-wing way though, Wilcox failed to mention at the time the top 16 0f 25 billionaire donors to the 2020 election were republicans. Together they gave $152 MILLION more than the 9 Democrats who included Soros.

As time past and especially nearer the 2024 election the musings became less covert. Finally the MAGA language appeared in the Musings. Comments about the "woke agenda," PRESIDENT Biden's physical health and such until finally a column actually thanking God for DOGE. An amazing comment in retrospect since DOGE cost millions, enabled Musk to cancel investigations into his companies, walk off with personal info of Americans and gain more billions in government contracts.

Since the last election Wilcox has been eerily silent. Not a word about ICE thugs arresting and detaining people with legal status and even U.S. natural born citizens. Yes they are, for those in the back. Last week agents dragged a 17 year old TEENAGER from his work, threw him to the ground, tied him and took him away. All the while he was saying he is a citizen and has his passport ON HIM. All was ignored (after all he wasn't white) and he was later dumped in a Walmart parking lot miles away. There are now hundreds of verified incidents of U.S. citizens being attacked by ICE and CBP.

Even weirder after all the commenting on Biden's fitness is Wilcox's silence about the Felon who continuously falls asleep in meetings, gives hour long meandering speeches without any coherence, lies continuously (repeatedly claiming grocery prices have come way down for example), rages in tweets during the middle of the night and especially waging and threatening war on other countries. The current president clearly is suffering from dementia, but silence from Wilcox. As a side I'll mention our gaslighting Representative in hiding, Billy Huizenga, is even more silent while protecting the pedophiles and voting to take healthcare and food assistance from constituents.

So now we have the latest January 15th Musings about the IRS. Boy don't we all hate the IRS! What we have is another ranting that makes sense on the surface, while in true MAGA form leaves out the context. Conveniently not mentioned among the complaining about poor phone times, under staffing and old equipment is the fact that PRESIDENT Biden completed legislation that would have added 89,000 IRS employees OVER TEN YEARS to replace the 50,000 living and retiring during then, and replaced equipment. Phone wait times had markedly improved under Biden as well. Wilcox doesn't mention here it was Republicans who repealed the bulk of that legislation, it was the Felon in his first term that cut $278 MILLION from the IRS budget and since returning has cut staff again and frozen hiring. Of course Wilcox doesn't mention how the right-wing falsely claimed the 89,000 would be armed agents going after regular people. It was simply lying propaganda, but in MAGA world so what... Meanwhile audits of billionaire tax cheats have nearly ended and a million bucks donated can get you a pardon. Republicans have been after the IRS since before the Felon and are responsible for the complaints in the latest Musings.

From covertly expressed politics to overtly expressed ones and back to the covert Musings. An amazing journey that could have been way better.

Brian M. Smith

Scientific studies are beneficial

Dear Editor:

"Waste, Fraud and Abuse" seems to be the current "Topic of the Day".

It's most recent iteration comes to us through editor, Mike Wilcox from Senator Rand Paul, (R,KY) who, on an annual basis, takes it upon himself to present several of what he considers the most egregious examples of wasteful scientific studies.

Take the first as an example of the rest: a study of "shrimp running on treadmills".

It only took a quick dive into the research to discover that the study was actually intended to elucidate how shrimp are able to respond to stress caused by infection and temperature change both of which can impact shrimp production in a multi- million-dollar American industry (the "stress" was the treadmill).

The other examples were similarly misrepresented.

Many game changing discoveries are made through this kind of basic research which would never attract the needed funding through other sources and it's disappointing that a senator who is a medical doctor, trained in ophthalmology, is blind to this. Instead he uses it to score cheap political points through the riling up of small town newspaper editors who pass it on to their under-informed readers.

THIS is a prime example of waste, fraud and abuse.

The WASTE is Trump's cutting of funding to these studies in mid stream before any of the gathered data can be analyzed.

The FRAUD is the mischaracterization of the studies themselves.

And the ABUSE is to do both without giving the participants an opportunity to respond.

Dave Ohmart

The Allegan COUNTY NEWS

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Otsego & Plainwell UNION ENTERPRISE

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Obituaries

Charles M. Setter

Charles M. "Chuck/Charlie" Setter, 86, entered into eternal rest in the early morning hours of January 9th, 2026, at Bronson Hospital in Kalamazoo, Michigan, after a very brief illness. He was 6 weeks shy of turning 87 years old.

Chuck was born February 19th, 1939, in Allegan, the son of Felix and Charlotte (Baugh) Setter. He was a lifetime member of Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Allegan. He was also a Member of the Knights of Columbus #2515. He was very grounded in his Catholic faith which was very evident to his family.

There were many shenanigans to be had throughout his youth with his cousins Dick Levett, Tom Locatis, Max Hiscock and friends Mel Taylor, Terry Skoglund, Bill Austin, Dale Christman. Many of them occurred in the vicinity of Miner Lake.

He graduated from Allegan High School, class of 1956. After graduation, he was accepted and ready to attend Western Michigan University, to earn a degree in engineering. Just prior to the start of the school year, he decided that he was done with books and studying and never pursued that degree. He was a smart man and would prove to the world that he didn't need that piece of paper.

He was united in Holy Matrimony to Helen J. Conley on February 8th, 1964, in Allegan.

In October of 1965, he became a first-time father to Tamra. Their second child, Teresa, was born in December of 1966 and their 3rd daughter, Cristine, joined the family in December of 1970.

Chuck was a mechanical genius and an amazing welder. Cars were his passion. Especially fast cars. He would diagnose and repair a number of car problems over the years, but his specialty was upgrading power and performance of any vehicle and building fast race motors. He had a hand in tuning a dragster, Corvette drag car, Mini-champ, his own Chevy II #411, at Berlin Raceway and Kalamazoo Speedway. His last racing venture was helping Jacob Caines with his racing career.

Charles M. Setter

He was THE technical inspector at Kalamazoo Speedway during the '80s and '90s. He loved that job! He would pride himself on catching the "cheaters" and evicting them from the track. They would try to argue with him, but little did they know they never stood a chance.

He and his wife Helen, along with other family members and friends, established the Allegan County Snowmobile Club in 1973. Lots of love and hard work went into founding that organization.

Shortly after his retirement at age 49 from Rockwell International, Chuck bought and proudly restored a 1925 Rumley Oil Pull with some prodding from his son-in-law, Bill. He and Helen would travel to tractor shows for many years, enjoying all the old tractors, especially John Deere, and hanging out with their tractor friends. Sometimes the grandkids would hang out with them as well, riding on a tractor in the parade.

Chuck loved his family dearly including all his Pomeranians he had throughout the years. However, Ozzie, the first one, was his favorite. He loved animals, especially dogs and Tiger the Creech cat, who would come to him when he called him.

In his later years, he enjoyed attending Charlie's and Anna's soccer games. Those two were beasts on the field. He liked watching Will play baseball and traveling to Allegan Marching Band competitions for Will, Ben and Sam, with a couple trips to Ford Field!

He is survived by his wife, Helen of 61 years (1 month shy of 62), daughters Tamra (Bob) Mastenbrook, of Kalamazoo, Teresa (Bill) Creech, of Allegan and Cristine (Ron) Fisher of Kalamazoo. Siblings Kay Setter-Kline, of Portage, and Joan Kiefer, of Allegan. Grandchildren Benjamin Creech, Charlotte Creech, Will Croteau, Sam Croteau and Anna Mastenbrook. One sister-in-law, Wanda Conley and one brother in-law, Steve Wright. Many nieces and nephews, Kline, Shank and Kiefer, Conley, Jensen, Thompson, Kurtz, Remington, Peters, Pickin, Wright and Locatis families.

Chuck was preceded in death by his parents, his in-laws W.E. and Shirley Conley, Bobby & Margaret Conley, Billie & Paul Jensen, Jimmy Conley, Anna Wright, Nancy & Tom Locatis as well as good friends Melvin Taylor and Bill & Sharon Abraham.

On Saturday, January 17th, we will celebrate Chuck's life by praying the rosary at 10:30 am and offering a Mass in his memory at 11:00 am, both at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, 110 N. Cedar Street, Allegan, MI 49010. Visitation and luncheon will follow at 12:30 pm at The Silo, 1071 32nd Street (M-40 South), Allegan. Cremation has taken place. A private internment will take place at a later date.

In lieu of flowers and in Chuck's honor, the family has established the Charles Setter Automotive Trade School Scholarship through the Allegan County Community Foundation. This scholarship is for any senior of Allegan High School that is pursuing a career in the automotive repair industry after graduation.

If you would like to donate to the scholarship, click the link below.

Charles Setter Automotive Trade School Scholarship

If you would like to send a check, please use the address below:

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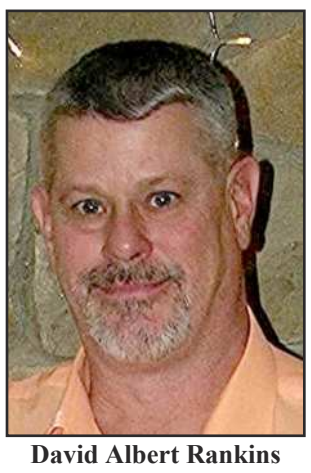
and write Charles Setter in the memo.

David Albert Rankins

David Albert Rankins, 56, of Ceresco, Michigan, passed away on Sunday, January 11, 2026 at Beacon Kalamazoo. He was born on March 11, 1969, the son of Charles David Rankins and Marietta Louise (Smith) Stoughton.

David drove several years for Veteran Truck Lines and was very proud and well-known by all his customers. David married the love of his life, Angela on December 13, 2020, but the two were together for many years before their union. He was also a member of Pheasants Forever, Inc.

David is survived by his wife, Angela Lapp-Rankins; son, Noah Postma; daughter, Amie Rankins; step-son, Andy (Raquel) Lapp; step-daughter, Lisa (Taylor) Lapp; grandchildren, Cameron, Seth, Talon, Maleah,



David Albert Rankins

Weston, Adrianna (Eli); great-grandchildren, Evelyn, Carter; and brother, John Rankins.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

David was an avid hunter and could spend hours in his blind observing. He loved to fish, restore anything he could get his hands on, was a master of cooking and grilling, and a beloved animal enthusiast, especially his Rottweiler, Abby. David was a simple man, but would give everything he had to those in need. He never met a stranger and when he did he could hold a conversation about anything. David loved his family, his children and grandchildren were his world and he loved to spend time with them.

A celebration of David's life will be held at the Eckford Community Center, Sunday, January 25, 2026 at 4:00 pm at 99 Maple Street, Homer, MI 49245,

Memorial donations may go to Erin's Angels Rescue, 498 Ridge Road, Quincy, MI 49082.

Arrangements entrusted to the Baxter Funeral & Cremation Service. 269-788-9800. www.baxterfuneral.com.

Nancy Gail Welsh

Nancy Gail Welsh, loving wife, mother, grandmother, sister and friend passed away suddenly and too soon on January 7, 2026.

Nancy was born to Oscar and Rose Schmidt in Mount Pleasant MI where she grew up as one of five children. When she married William Patrick Welsh they moved to Northville where their two sons, Joe and Tim were born. Later the family relocated to their long-term home in Plainwell where Nancy was employed as an administrator for a dental practice. She was an avid reader and enjoyed working in her garden. A dedicated Detroit Tigers fan, she shared a love of baseball with her whole family, spending many weekends traveling to

Nancy Gail Welsh

watch her sons play. Nancy's real joy came from devotion to family. Upon the death of her husband, she sold her home to move to Lowell to be closer to her toddler grandsons upon whom she lavished attention, playing with them at every opportunity, doing art projects with them and telling them stories.

Nancy is lovingly remembered by her family: son Joseph James Welsh and his wife Elissa Unger; son Timothy Patrick Welsh and his wife Emily; grandchildren William Sanderson Welsh, Kelly Bradford Welsh and Quinn Jennette Massey; siblings Gary (Deanna) Schmidt, Barbara (Dick) Russel, Tim (Debbie) Schmidt, Tom (Julie) Schmidt.

A gathering to celebrate Nancy's wonderful life will be held in the spring when the flowers begin to bloom and the Tigers she loved are rounding the bases. She is missed.

Andrew Jon Smit

Andrew Jon Smit passed on January 13, 2026. He was born to his parents Terry and Jeanne (Durian) Smit on June 22, 1976, in Plainwell, MI. Andrew was the part owner and operator of the Hopkins Elevator and Peaceful Roads Farms. Outside of work, he loved to cook, BBQ, and bake delicious food for anyone that was over. He enjoyed watching NASCAR, Star Wars movies, identifying insects, collecting vintage Looney Tunes cups, and building with Legos. Andrew was also a talented craftsman, creating things out in his man shed. He shared over 25 years with his partner Lisa Black and spared nothing to keep her happy. They together believed in keeping their

Andrew Jon Smit

doors open to anyone, feeding them, providing love and a safe place to call home. Andrew loved his family, especially his children and foster kids. He led by example and is missed deeply.

He is survived by his partner, Lisa Black; mother, Jeanne Smit; in-laws, Richard and Nancy Black; children, Mckenna Black, Ethan Black, Auroa Black, Ericka Black, and Liam Black; siblings, Becky (Stan) Vanderpol, Emily (Kevin) Martin; sibling in-laws, Amy Smit, Laura (Kevin) Grate, and Richard (Amy) Black; and many nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his father, Terry Smit; son, Dillon Orvis; brother, Paul Smit; and brother in-law, Roger Black.

Andrew's visitation will be from 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM Sunday, January 18th. His funeral service will be the following day at 12:00 PM with an hour's visitation from 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Monday, January 19th. Both visitations and funeral service will be at Hopkins Community Church 2142 128th Avenue, Hopkins, MI 49328.

Memorial donations may be made to the family in Lisa Blacks name and or Wedgewood Christian Services.

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Plainwell Daughter Dance set for February 14

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

Attention all Plainwell Community Schools girls in kindergarten through sixth grade: it's time once again to break out your dancing shoes.

PCS will host its annual Daughter Dance on Saturday, Feb. 14, at Plainwell Middle School.

The event gives daughters the chance to attend with a chaperone and enjoy an evening that's become a popular tradition within the district.

Doors will open at 3:30 p.m. for pictures only, with the dance itself set for 4 to 6 p.m.

The cost to attend is $30 per couple (daughter and chaperone), with a $10 fee for each additional daughter. The price includes a formal digital photo, music from a DJ, a selfie station, refreshments, entry into a raffle and a flower for each participant.

Formal photos will be digital again this year. After the event, photos will be uploaded to a shared online file so families can download and print their pictures at their convenience.

PCS officials are encouraging families to preregister to avoid lines at the door. Registration can be completed at plainwellschools.org/page/youth-programs, with cash and check accepted in person the day of the dance.

According to Plainwell Community Education director Andrea Murphy, the Daughter Dance is social highlight for many PCS families during the winter months.

Along with the music and photos, many attendees make an evening of it by going out to dinner beforehand or enjoying dessert afterward.

Attendees at last year's Daughter Dance hosted by Plainwell Community Schools show off their dance moves. This year's dance is schedule for Valentines Day. (File photo)

Plainwell council set to act on appointments

By John Raffel
Correspondent

PLAINWELL — The Plainwell City Council was set to consider confirming the Mayor's appointment of several community members to various boards and commissions at a meeting earlier this month.

The Council was to consider approving the purchase and installation of four new tires on the newer front loader, and having the removed set of tires installed on the older front loader by Meekhof Tire at a cost of $13,540.

The Council was set to consider approving the sale of approximately 26.98 acres of real property located at 830 Miller Road, Plainwell, and authorize the City Manager and City Clerk to enter into a purchase/sale agreement for the property subject to final approval by the City Manager and City Attorney.

The council was also set to consider further authorization of the City Manager and City Clerk to execute documents or other agreements as necessary to close on the sale of the property, subject to final review by the City Manager and Attorney, and authorize the City Manager and City Attorney to take any steps necessary to effectuate the sale of the property.

The Council was set to review and discuss currently proposed development plans for the Mill Building complex.

Learning self defense

As part of their Senior Seminar course, Otsego High School seniors recently took part in a basic self-defense workshop led by martial arts instructor Mark Lipson.

Lipson, of the Martial Arts Training Center in Paw Paw, demonstrated simple techniques for awareness and escape. (Photos provided)

Chief Judges named to Allegan County Courts

By Gari Voss

The Honorable Matthew Antkoviak of the Allegan County 48th Circuit Court received notice from the Honorable Megan Cavanagh, Chief Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court, that he was reappointed to Chief Circuit Court Judge in Allegan County beginning January 1, 1026. Chief Judge Antkoviak of the 48th Circuit Court joins Chief Judge Joseph S. Skocelas of the 57th District Court to provide the administrative support of the judges in Allegan County.

Being appointed as chief judge is an honor while being a responsibility. That responsibility is to Michigan's judiciary, to colleagues in the home courts, and to each person who steps into the courtroom. But the expectation is that these judges not only work within the judicial system but also in the communities that their courts serve.

In Judge Antkoviak's letter of appointment, Chief Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court Megan Cavanagh stated, "In accepting this appointment, you also accept this challenge: A justice must be available to everyone, not just to those who can afford it. To enhance access, we must work diligently to ensure that our courts are open to all. At the same time the judiciary must be adapted to the needs of those it serves and attuned to the problems and concerns of the communities that most depend on our work. This means that judges must be willing to engage with civic organizations and community leaders, taking the lead in being responsive to the needs of those we serve."

The Allegan County courts have been anchored by a respected group of judges and support staff. Whether the 48th Circuit Court, the 57th District Court, or the Probate Court, the responsibilities of the chief judges are similar while focusing on their areas of expertise.

The 48th Circuit Court will concentrate on trials for all felonies, civil suits over $25,000, and all family matters like divorce, custody issues, child support, adoption, and domestic violence. Judges of the Family Division have jurisdiction over cases involving juvenile delinquents, abused and neglected children, adoptions, name changes, emancipation, and parental consent waivers. It also reviews decisions from the county, municipal, and magistrate courts or administrative agencies.

While the Circuit Court addresses the higher level issues, the 57th District Court takes care of suits of $25,000 or less, adult criminal misdemeanor offenses punishable up to one year in prison, civil infractions or traffic violations, landlord-tenant disputes, small claims civil suits of $6,500 or less, and land contract forfeitures. It is the District Court that can issue arrest and search warrants, set bail and accept bonds, conduct arraignments for misdemeanors and felonies, and perform marriage ceremonies.

Not to be forgotten is the Probate Court. In Allegan County, one judge handles estates and trusts of the deceased, guardianships, conservatorships for minors and adults, mental health situations, delayed registrations of foreign birth, drain appeals, and can hold wills for safe keeping. This means ensuring that vulnerable individuals are protected including finance management and mental health.

All three courts work diligently in ensuring that all are given fair, timely, and trusted justice. But when decisions are appealed, the appeals of the District and Probate Courts are heard by the Circuit Court. People appealing decisions of the Circuit Court go to the state level.

While most citizens see only the more public layer of the courts, there are many administrative responsibilities that fall to the chief judge, there include a number of issues in which the chief judge must be involved in and offer input, and at times be the final authority.

As the Honorable Antkoviak shared, "From the administrative perspective, I would argue that the role is more like a chief administrator position. So, I handle all sorts of aspects about the governance of the courts including docket assignments plus hiring and firing. Ultimately, those decisions are left with me. It's a level of responsibility that is different in every court, but it requires a lot of thought and contemplation. I enjoy the challenge and dealing with the situations."

Antkoviak explained that being chief judge leads to a new level of understanding. Reflecting back, "Just taking the bench initially was very enlightening. From the perspective of being a practicing attorney, you are part of a process, but as a judge, you are looking at it from the other side. That is, looking at all of the factors going into not only making a decision in a particular case, but running the court as a whole. That is only one piece of the puzzle as a whole because as in the judiciary, I look at our court systems as collateral and collaborative. I think there are many things that we do as judges where we can work together, so we have monthly meetings called the Judicial Council where we get together and talk about issues that affect us as a whole."

Those issues in common can relate to courthouse security, the use of technology in hearing cases, and other pieces that affect all of the judges and their staffs. The judges collaborate to find a combined solution or increase understanding with input from all sectors. In that way, the judges work together on the issues.

"When you are a judge, you are responsible for setting the tone while setting the policies," reflected Antkoviak. "In any process as an attorney, you get to know how different judges work and how different systems work. It is different when you are on the other side."

For the Judicial Council, one concern that arose during the construction of the newest section of the courtrooms was the height of the judge's bench. During the building process, an incident arose in a court in another part of the country when a defendant jumped over judge's bench. The potential for having a litigant jump over the bench became part of the conversation. By working with contractors, a solution was found.

As Judge Antkoviak looked forward, several thoughts came to mind. First was the need to adjust schedules because those involved may be needed in several courts, so times must be taken into consideration. Administratively, there is importance in carrying out those tasks efficiently with clear communication. Weekly meetings with circuit court staff, anchored by Court Administrator Jennifer Brink, remained high on the list of goals. In addition, the desire for a monthly meeting with the Allegan County Clerk was needed to assist in the process.

"I want to continue having good conversations and open dialogue about how the circuit court can better work together not only to meet the needs of the litigants but also the employees in the court system," explained Judge Antkoviak. "So that would be one of my main goals.

"Obviously, there are others we work closely with," continued the Judge. "The CCAB [County Correction Advisory Board] is important as it relates to keeping informed about what is going on with some of the alternatives to incarceration and the services they provide. We also have the Legal Assistance Center that is not part of the Circuit Court, but they assist with the administration of the court by assisting low income litigants. By helping people handle legal matters that would be extremely difficult to navigate without an attorney, people are able to navigate the paper work and system."

As Judge Antkoviak continued to explore goals during the coming years, training came to mind that judges attend. Some are offered at the statewide level through the State Court Administrative office.

Specific to Allegan County, the judges maintain involvement with the Specialty Courts. Again, these give judges options when working with litigants. Judges are assigned to the different courts. At this time, Judge Antkoviak is involved with the Business Court, which is a Specialty Court designed to handle litigation between businesses quickly and efficiently.

"The premise of the Business Court is to get to heart of the matter and resolve the issue quickly and efficiently with minimal cost," reflected Antkoviak. "This will get them back to work in a way that will benefit all. When a third judge was assigned to Allegan County, the State mandated that a Business Court be established. It was natural for me to take all the business litigation cases as part of my responsibilities. Judge Margaret Bakker has the Swift and Sure Sanctions Probation program, and Judge Jipp assists the Adult Treatment Court."

In short, Judge Antkoviak wants to have all of the facts in business cases while being sensitive to the knowledge that businesses must be in operation in order to complete their work.

During monthly Judicial Council meetings that are run by Judge Jolene Clearwater of the Probate Court, Judge Clearwater, Chief Judge Antkoviak and Chief Judge Joseph S. Skocelas and their staffs can have meaningful conversations.

Judge Skocelas was appointed to the 57th District Court on April 26, 2006. This is the third time Judge Skocelas has taken the reins as chief judge. As with Judge Antkoviak, he works closely with his Court Administrator Laurie Tange and the State Court Administrator to manage policy, budget, administration, and day-to-day operations of their courts.

Even with the added responsibilities associated with a chief judge, both judges keep a pulse on community needs and programs to meet those needs as alluded to by Chief Justice Cavanagh. Judge Skocelas has been an instructor at Kalamazoo Valley Community College, the Allegan County Sheriff's Department Reserve Academy, and the Citizen's Police Academy for the Allegan County Sheriff's Department and the Michigan State Police. In response to needs, he founded the "Court in the Schools" program for Allegan County High Schools in 2007 and the first Specialty Court in Allegan County, the Mental Health Treatment Court in 2009 that has 152 successful graduates of the program to date. Judge Antkoviak has kept a pulse on the City of Allegan Planning and Parks Commission, been involved in the Court in the Schools Program, along with the Forgotten Man Ministries.

Congratulations to both of these judges for their appointments and going beyond normal duties as a judge to address the needs of the litigants in Allegan County's courts.

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Trailblazers earn historic victory over Zeeland West

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

ZEELAND—During the offseason, Saugatuck girls basketball coach Kevin Tringali had a goal of beefing up his team's non-conference schedule.

"We felt like it was important for us to add some quality games to our schedule," he said. "We'd get to the postseason the past few years, and we'd realize we probably weren't as prepared as we could have been and we wanted to face some tougher challenges during the season to get us ready."

No non-conference game was bigger—both in terms of the size of the school and challenge—than the one at Zeeland West on Tuesday, Jan. 13.

The Dux, like Saugatuck, entered the game unbeaten.

And not only did the Trailblazers prove they could hold their own, but they actually came away with the 43-40 victory.

The win upped Saugatuck, ranked seventh in Division 3, to 8-0. Zeeland West fell to 7-1.

"This was such a great test for our team and we're so thankful to Zeeland West for their willingness to put us on their schedule," Tringali said. "I honestly didn't care about the outcome. I just wanted to get our girls in a game like this against a very good team in a tough environment.

"The fact that we were able to come away with the win just adds to the experience. I could not be prouder of the way our girls stepped up and played."

It was just the kind of performance that Tringali thinks will help his team when the step on the court for the postseason play at the end of February.

"Last season when we got to regionals, we knew we were a little overmatched," he said. "This year, we'll be able to look back at games like this and know we've gone toe-to-toe with some very good teams, which should give us a lot of confidence.

"Our goal is to take that next step and join that upper echelon of teams in Division 3. Hopefully, this is a step in that process."

Tringali was particularly pleased with the defense from his team.

The goal was to contain Zeeland West's Sadie Kragt, who entered the game averaging about 18 points per game. She was limited to 13 by the Trailblazers, but she only connected on two field goals as the rest of her points came from the line.

Mylah Simpson led the defensive effort against Kragt, while fellow guards Talia Laskowski and Penny Grob also helping out.

"We studied Zeeland quite a bit," Tringali said. "We watched a lot of film and had the chance to go see them play on a Saturday. We knew they scored a lot more on dribble-and-drives than from the perimeter, so we wanted to take that away from them.

"That started with keying in on Kragt, and the girls really executed. We used a box-and-one on (Kragt), and it was Mylah who took the lead on that with Talia and Penny also doing a great job."

Tringali was proud of the way the Trailblazers responded on the offensive end.

"We're a team that averages between five and eight 3-pointers per game," he said. "In this game, we had two. So we had to really grind it out and figure out other ways to score."

Talia Laskowski goes up for a basket in Saugatuck's win over Gobles. (Photo by Scott Sullivan)

Laskowski led the offensive charge with, accounted for both of Saugatuck's 3-pointers and finishing with a game-best 23 points.

The second of her triples came midway through the fourth quarter. She followed that up with a traditional 3-point play on a steal-turned-layup to put the Trailblazers up by 10 points with 3:12 remaining.

Zeeland West made a rallied to cut the gap to three points with waning seconds following a basket by Kragt, but the Dux could get no closer.

"This is just such a huge win for our program in terms of getting us where we want to be," Tringali said. "A big part of our success has been our team chemistry. These girls really like each other and have a lot of fun on and off the court. That showed out there."

Simpson added 12 points for Saugatuck, followed by six from Charlee Gustafson. Simpson, Gustafson, Laskowski and Grob also snagged five rebounds each, good for second on the team behind Ada Roth with seven.

Saugatuck followed up that history-making win by traveling to Gobles for a divisional game on Friday, Jan. 16.

After a slow start that saw them down 12-8 after one quarter, the Trailblazers raced back to take a 28-21 halftime lead.

The second half was all Saugatuck, as a 37-15 scoring edge resulted in a 65-36 win.

"Our pressure defense and timely three balls helped us in the second half," Tringali said.

Simpson had a season high 30 points, including three of her team's eight 3-pointers. Laskowski finished with 12 points and Grob added nine.

"We were stuck in the mud a bit to start off, but we figured it out," Tringali said. "This team doesn't need to be reminded about trap games after Tuesday's big night. And despite the early goings, I was happy with our effort."

Clippers start strong in win over Black River

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

MARTIN—Throughout the season, slow starts have plagued the Martin boys basketball team.

The Clippers changed that when they hosted Holland Black River in a divisional showdown on Friday, Jan. 16.

Martin took a 12-5 lead at the end of the opening stanza and never looked back in securing the 53-37 to improve to 3-8.

"It was a nice win for us tonight," Martin coach Corby Callaway said. "We got off to a good start and just kept building off that as the night went on."

The Clippers outscored Black River in each of the first three quarters, going up 23-13 at halftime and 39-21 at the end of three quarters.

Black River did hold a 16-14 scoring edge in the final frame, but Martin had the game well in hand at that point.

"I saw some really good things on the defensive end of the floor and we executed our offense probably as well as we have all season," Callaway said.

Ethan Fitzpatrick scored a game-best 19 points to go with three rebounds. Blake Sweeting had a double-double with 13 points and 16 rebounds to go with six steals and four blocks.

Jason Marshall (eight points, six assists, five rebounds and three steals) and Weson Elkins (seven assists and five rebounds) also contributed.

Another area that stood out to Callaway was the play of his reserves.

"We got some great contributions from our bench," he said. "It was a nice way to end a long week for us."

Martin's Weson Elkins pushes the ball up the court in the win over Black River. (Photo by Jason Wesseldyk)

Five inducted into Plainwell Hall of Fame

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

Plainwell High School honored its 2026 Athletic Hall of Fame class on Friday, Jan. 16, during a ceremony held between the girls and boys varsity basketball games against Niles.

The Hall of Fame recognizes former Plainwell athletes and coaches who made significant contributions to Trojan athletics during their time at the high school and beyond. This year's class included four former Plainwell athletes and one longtime coach.

The 2026 inductees are Shannon Cunningham (Carrier), Kyle Farris, Sarah Owens (Morrell), Dalton Smith and Bill Switzer.

Here's a closer look at each of these Trojan standouts:

Shannon (Carrier) Cunningham

Cunningham was a three-sport athlete at Plainwell, competing in volleyball, basketball and soccer. She served as a captain in all three sports and went on to have a standout soccer career at Grand Valley State University.

During her time at GVSU, Cunningham was a four-time All-GLIAC selection and a three-time NCAA Division II All-Region honoree. She finished her collegiate career with 119 points, placing her among the program's career leaders.

Her assist totals remain among the best in school history, ranking fourth all-time. Cunningham's collegiate accomplishments led to her induction into the GVSU Athletic Hall of Fame in 2019.

Kyle Farris

Farris was a four-year varsity player for Plainwell soccer and served as a two-time team captain. He helped lead Plainwell to a state semifinal appearance in 2010 and earned consecutive All-State, All-Region and All-District honors during his career.

After graduating, Farris continued his playing career at Western Michigan University. He later returned to Plainwell as the girls varsity head soccer coach, where he guided the program to a conference championship in 2016 and received Coach of the Year recognition.

Farris remains involved in the sport as an assistant coach with the Western Michigan University women's soccer program.

Sarah (Morrell) Owens

Owens was a four-year varsity basketball starter who helped lead Plainwell to a 72-17 record over her high school career. Her senior season included a school-record 23-1 finish and a trip to the Regional Finals.

She is the program's all-time leading scorer with 1,363 career points and led the team in scoring and rebounding all four seasons. Owens played multiple positions throughout her career and earned three All-State selections, including First Team honors as a senior.

She was also named the Kalamazoo Gazette All-Area Player of the Year.

Dalton Smith

Smith competed for Plainwell wrestling from 2003 to 2006 and became the program's first four-time state qualifier and first two-time state champion. He claimed titles at 119 pounds and 125 pounds, defeating a returning state champion during his junior run.

Smith finished his high school career with 181 victories, which ranks second in program history. He also recorded 337 takedowns and won multiple conference, district and regional titles.

Bill Switzer

Switzer played a foundational role in the development of Plainwell wrestling. He helped launch the program in 1964, converting an informal student wrestling club into a varsity sport by the 1965-66 season.

To prepare for coaching, Switzer attended university camps and worked with experienced coaches to learn the sport. Under his leadership, Plainwell produced early conference champions and state qualifiers.

Switzer transitioned to an assistant coaching role in 1971 and continued to serve the program until retiring from coaching in 1976. His work established the structure and culture that allowed Plainwell wrestling to grow in the decades that followed.

Members of the Plainwell Hall of Fame Class of 2026 are seen with their plaques. (Photo provided)

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ATHLETE of the WEEK

Haylen Buell
Martin
Wrestling

In the fall, Martin senior Haylen Buell led the Clippers to a third 8-Player Division 1 football state championship. Now, he's using his athletic prowess to excel on the wresting mats.

Competing at the Hudson Super 16, Buell took home the title at 165 pounds. He earned wins over the fifth-ranked wrestler in D1 and the third-ranked wrestler in D2. For his efforts, he was named Most Outstanding Wrestler at the tournament.

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Clippers upend visiting Black River

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

MARTIN—Torryn Harris did a little bit of everything for the Martin girls basketball team when it hosted Holland Black River on Friday, Jan. 16.

In addition to scoring 13 points, Harris also came up with eight steals, snagged six rebounds and dished out five assists.

That performance helped the Clippers cruise to the 53-20 win.

Only Anna Jager scored more points than Harris in the victory, as she went for 17.

And most of that damage by Jager came in the opening quarter.

On the strength of three 3-pointers, Jager went for 11 points in the opening frame to help Martin take a 22-4 lead.

That set the tone for the rest of the game, as the Clippers led 30-16 at halftime and 45-16 after three quarters.

"I thought this was a great game on both sides of the floor," Martin coach Eric Zugweg said. "It always starts with our defense and we held Black River to one 3-pointer the night, caused a lot of turnovers and overall played with great energy.

"On the offensive side of the ball, we came out shooting really well and ended up with three players in double figures and had seven girls score for us."

Kylie Meyers joined Jager and Harris in double figures with 10 points to go with five rebounds and three steals.

Jager also had the hot hand in Martin's game with Grand Rapids Sacred Heart on Tuesday, Jan. 14.

In that game, Jager scored 27 points to lead the Clippers to a 53-36 triumph.

Harris, Aliyah DeGlopper and Kayden Jager each chipped in with seven points.

"I thought we shot the ball very well and played scrappy defense throughout the game," Zudweg said. "Sacred Heart played hard and gave us a tough game. They're a well-coached team."

Martin outscored Sacred Heart in each quarter, including an 11-5 edge in the first frame to set the tone.

Martin's Alley Bacon (10) makes a move in the win over Black River. (Photo by Jason Wesseldyk)

Allegan boys compete well after losing Thrash to injury

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

For the record, the Allegan boys basketball team dropped its home game with Kalamazoo Hackett on Tuesday, Jan. 13, by a final score of 64-41.

That score, however, was secondary to another loss suffered by the Tigers.

Less than 30 seconds into the first quarter, Allegan point guard Brandon Thrash went down with an injury while driving the lane.

He didn't return and was later diagnosed with a broken leg. Thrash will miss the remainder of the season.

"The game plan completely changed after Brandon got hurt," first-year Allegan coach Brian Baker said. "It really shook the kids up a little bit. And the rest of the game we ended up playing with only eight players."

The early loss of Thrash played a big role in the Tigers starting the game in a 15-4 hole following the first quarter of play. By halftime, the deficit stood at 33-14.

The second half was much closer, with Hackett holding a 31-27 edge. Allegan won the fourth quarter by a 15-13 margin.

"What I was pleased with was the kids did not quit the whole game," Baker said. "In fact, this was probably the first game where we played effort wise all four quarters."

Ayden Fusco led the way for Allegan with 12 points and 12 rebounds. Braydn Kosoroski nearly joined him with a double-double, going for 10 points and eight rebounds.

Colby Bishop had nine points, while Liam Antonie had six points. Nathan Martinez added four points and "played great defense," according to Baker.

Baker also praised the contributions of Hayden McAlpine and Matheson Vernia.

"Hayden and Matheson came off the bench and gave us some great minutes," Baker said.

Allegan's Hauk Henrickson drives to the basket in the game with Hackett. (Photo by Jason Wesseldyk)

Allegan girls earn win over Delton

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

DELTON—When the Allegan girls basketball team traveled to Delton on Tuesday, Jan. 13, the Tigers were at less than full strength.

Sickness had hampered the Tigers' roster, limiting how many players were available for first-year coach Ernie Ramirez.

"We had multiple players recovering from the flu," Ramirez said.

Despite that challenge, the Tigers found a way to persevere and wound up claiming the 28-21 victory.

The win was the first of the season for Allegan following five straight defeats.

"We were able to keep it a low-scoring affair with great defensive stop throughout the game and just enough offense to get the job done," Ramirez said.

Jayden VandenAkker starred for the Tigers.

In addition to leading the offense with 11 points, VandenAkker also played a stellar defensive game. She limited Delton's leading scorer to eight points.

"Jayden is a heck of a player and she showed that tonight," Ramirez said.

Allegan was scheduled to travel to Dowagiac for a non-conference game on Wednesday, Jan. 14, before hosting South Haven on Friday, Jan. 16.

Both of those games were postponed due to weather, however.

Smalldon leads Otsego girls past Paw Paw

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

PAW PAW—Brooke Smalldon continued her outstanding performance for Otsego this season when the Bulldogs traveled to Paw Paw on Friday, Jan. 16.

Smalldon scored 22 points to go with six rebounds, three assists and three steals to lead the Bulldogs to the 59-35 win.

Otsego, which improved to 7-1 overall and 6-0 in the Wolverine Conference, led 11-5 after one quarter and 28-13 at halftime.

And while pleased with the outcome, Otsego coach Tony Koshar thought the margin of victory should have been even greater.

"It wasn't our best played game of the year, but the girls used another solid defensive effort to jump out early on the road," he said. "It was one of those games where it felt like we should have had 80 points but we didn't shoot the ball particularly well.

"But we used our defense to fuel multiple runs during the game to widen the lead as the game went on."

Mya Engbers added nine points and five rebounds, while Peyton Johnson chipped in with seven points and four steals.

Three days earlier, the Bulldogs hosted Niles and won 49-30.

Otsego was without the services of starter Madden Fitzpatrick, who was home sick.

"It was a good win for us as we were without Madden," Koshar said. "We challenged some of the other girls to step up to pick up the rebounding and scoring slack and we did a nice job of that."

A win by Niles would have put them in a tie with Otsego atop the league standings, making the game even more important.

The Bulldogs outscored Niles by at least three points in each quarter, including a 15-9 edge in the opening stanza to take control.

"We played a steady first half and opened up a 9-point lead and then our pressure forced some turnovers in the third quarter as we extended it to over 20," Koshar said. "It was a good team win for us."

Smalldon had 19 points, seven rebounds, five assists and three blocks. Audrey Lingbeek added nine points and six rebounds, while Engbers and Johnson finished with eight and seven points, respectively.

Saugatuck boys pick up first win of season

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

SAUGATUCK—It's been said that good things come to those who wait.

That was the case for the Saugatuck boys basketball team.

After dropping their first eight games of the season, the Trailblazers broke into the win column thanks to a 44-37 decision over visiting Muskegon Catholic Central on Tuesday, Jan. 13.

"We got a win," second-year Saugatuck coach Ty Rock said. "We gave ourselves a chance and were able to execute down the stretch."

Saugatuck trailed 33-28 after three quarters of play, but used a 16-4 advantage in the final frame to secure the victory.

Sammy Gamboa led the offense for the Trailblazers, scoring a team-best 14 points.

"We had a ton of turnovers as a team, so that continues to be a problem we need to correct," Rock said. "But tonight, we will enjoy the victory."

Saugatuck raced out to a 14-7 lead at the end of the opening quarter before trailing 25-23 at halftime.

The Trailblazers hoped to make it two wins in a row when they hosted Gobles on Friday, Jan. 16, but the Tigers had other ideas.

Gobles took an early lead and never trailed in handing Saugatuck the 67-33 loss.

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Allegan edges past Otsego to win league swim & dive dual

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

Allegan earned an 88–75 victory over a very strong Otsego squad on Tuesday night in a dual that stayed tight until the late stages.

The Tigers leaned on depth and relay execution to create just enough separation on the scoreboard. Allegan swept all three relays, starting with the medley team of Sam Kelley, Corbin Chopp, Cadel Conrad and Oliver Burnett, which opened the meet with a win.

The 200 freestyle relay of Chopp, Kelley, Josh Kelley and Burnett followed with another first-place finish, and the 400 freestyle relay group of John DeLaet, Ezra Smith, Conrad and Burnett sealed the meet with a victory in the final relay.

Individual wins also helped Allegan's cause. Chopp won the 100 breaststroke, Kelley took the 100 backstroke, and DeLaet claimed the 500 freestyle.

"The boys rose to the occasion," Allegan coach Carol Gephart said. "They raced with confidence and composure against a quality opponent."

Otsego countered with six event victories of its own. Liam Smith swept the sprints with wins in the 50 freestyle (22.44) and 100 freestyle (49.19). Brayden Meyer doubled in the 200 IM (2:12.77) and 100 butterfly (59.21), while Danny Truong won diving (127.95) and Liam Raseman took the 200 freestyle (1:56.79).

Despite being shorthanded, Otsego coach Darryl Belton liked what he saw from his group.

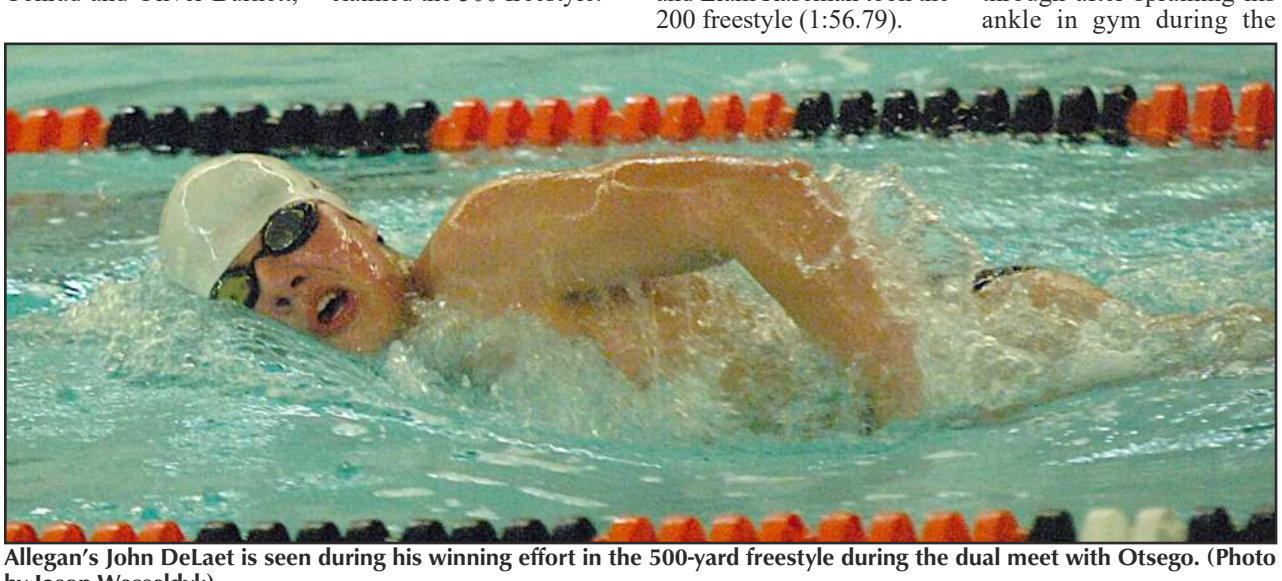
"It was a good meet for us," Belton said. "We were a bit shorthanded but we were able to hang in there until the end.

"Brennan Perry is new and he had to step up and swim the 500 and he swam about 40 seconds faster than I was hoping. Danny Truong PR'd in diving and Brayden Meyer really came through after spraining his ankle in gym during the day. We were very resilient all night and everyone came and competed at a high level. I was very pleased with what I saw."

Allegan filled the board with important second-and-third-place finishes.

In the 200 freestyle, Chopp finished second and DeLaet took third. Conrad and Ezra Smith went 2–3 in both the 200 IM and 100 butterfly, while Kelley and Josh Kelley managed 2–3 finishes in the 50 freestyle.

Burnett and Josh Kelley also placed 2–3 in the 100 freestyle, and Noah Greig added a third-place finish in the 100 breaststroke.



Allegan's John DeLaet is seen during his winning effort in the 500-yard freestyle during the dual meet with Otsego. (Photo by Jason Wesseldyk)

Martin wrestling shines at Hudson Super 16

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

HUDSON—Martin wrestling made the trip to the Hudson Super 16 on Saturday and came home with hardware — including a Most Outstanding Wrestler award for Haylen Buell.

En route to winning the title at 165 pounds, Buell secured signature victories over the No. 5 wrestler in Division 1 and No. 3 in Division 2.

Three other Clippers also medaled: Zaiden Buell was third at 120 pounds; Logan Curry was fifth at 157 pounds; and Peyton Schuring-Harris was fifth at 285 pounds.

The Hudson Super 16 is annually regarded as one of the toughest tournaments in Michigan. This year's field featured 39 teams and 119 wrestlers ranked in the top 10 of their respective weight classes.

Martin more than held its own, finishing ninth overall.

Clippers coach Logan Curry liked the way his team battled through deep brackets.

"I'm proud of how hard the kids competed against this level of competition," he said. "Back to work Monday."

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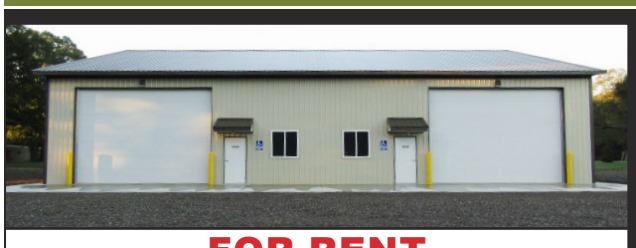
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Broomstick Pool warms a frigid Allegan afternoon

By Gari Voss

Saturday, January 17, 2026, showed no sign of registering a temperature reading above 20 degrees, so to warm up, 12 teams (24 participants) gathered at Sherwood's Cove in Allegan for a Broomstick Pool Tournament.

For the typical pool player, chalking a pool cue and shooting a round of pool is pretty normal. When the pool cue is replaced with a broomstick, the degree of difficulty increases. But the 24 players, ranging from quite novice to quite experienced, were up for the task of shooting the white cue ball with no chalk to steady their cue.

The tournament was a double elimination which gave everyone a couple opportunities to demonstrate their prowess. The exciting finale saw Tim & Casey crowned undefeated champions with the $144 prize, while Frosty & Dillion took second place, earning $96.

Tim & Casey were crowned undefeated champions of the Broomstick Pool Tournament at Sherwood's Cove in Allegan with the $144 1st Place prize, while Frosty & Dillion took 2nd Place and earned $96. The tournament kept 12 teams enjoying a very frigid Sat., Jan. 17, 2026, with friends. Photo: courtesy of Sherwood's Cove

Faith Horrocks and Greg Feeders look on as Jeff Baptiste takes his shot during the Broomstick Pool Tournament at Sherwood's Cove in Allegan on Sat., Jan. 17, 2026. The weather outside was frightful, but the crowd inside was enjoying the challenge and competition. Photo: G. Voss

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For The Record

Peek at the Past

From the pages of The Allegan News and The Allegan County News and Gazette:

Jan. 25, 1951

Six Lazy Frogs Make Health Center Modern: Six lazy, slippery frogs in the Allegan Health Center laboratory play an important part in making the hospital a leader in up-to-date medical services.

Ugly looking as they are, they still get tender care from laboratory technician Eleanor Hettinger. For these are Xenopus frogs from South Africa, used in essential tests for physicians in a wide area surrounding Allegan. The health center is one of only a few small-town hospitals providing services in this respect.

The Xenopus test is used when an early diagnosis of pregnancy is needed. It's fairly inexpensive and does much to ease patients' fears.

The frogs cost $7 by the dozen and are air-expressed from California. Most comparisons with Zenob (mouse) tests or Friedman (rabbit) tests show Xenopus is the best.

Diagnosis is made within 24 hours, sometimes an important factor in a patient's case. It has been found to be better than 98 per cent accurate.

Jan. 22, 1976

Hectic pace for Queen Julie: At the midpoint of her reign as Miss Michigan, Julie Beckers of Allegan, continues to travel at a hectic pace as an official representative of the state.

Following a holiday trip to Florida with her family, Jack and Sally Beckers, and three of their other children, Jackie, Kitty, and John, and her boyfriend, Bob Sosnowski, Julie was back in Allegan Jan. 10 for the Snow Safari.

She then had to cancel a trip to Illinois because of hazardous driving conditions, but flew to northern Wisconsin last weekend for the World Championship Snowmobile Race at Eagle River.

The Beckers family returned Saturday from Round Lake home New Year's Day following a week's vacation spent in Key West, a couple of days at Fort Myers, and two more days at Orlando where they toured Disney World.

Accompanied by Lynne Nahikian of Allegan, Julie rode her own Arctic Cat snowmobile in the 15-mile safari at White Cloud and reigned at a big dinner-and-dance following the safari.

Mrs. Beckers joined her daughter for the trip to Eagle River, Wis., a small summer resort town where tourists decided a few years ago to "beef up" the winter season with snowmobile races that have in recent years turned into a major attraction.

Jan. 25, 2001

ISD plans new building: The office building for the Allegan County Intermediate School District, located at the corner of M-40 South and Thomas Street on the south edge of Allegan, will soon get bigger. At the regular board meeting Monday, Jan. 22, the ISD approved architectural drawings for an addition.

Officials plan to begin construction of the addition around April 1 and to occupy the new space in late September.

The addition is a separate project from the overall process for new facilities and development and buildings management the ISD has engaged in the past year-and-a-half. ISD superintendent Robert Brenner said costs were manageable for the less extensive, more narrowly focused improvement project.

"This is a smaller building project, we're trying to deal with a certain specific problem, and we think we can deal with it out of the ISD operating budget," Brenner said.

Brenner said the ISD's portion of office space has been steadily reduced as the ISD's special education services have increased. The ISD serves regular education services to students only at the request of local public school districts that contract with the ISD for services, he said.

The ISD middle schools include one day treatment center and one center to serve severely impaired students. It also serves as a resource center for county special education students.

At 7,300 square feet, the addition will balloon the size of the administrative office building by more than 50 percent. The new wing will be one story to match the profile of the current 13,000-square-foot, red-brick building.

According to Brenner, the $1,182,000 project will be paid for out of the ISD operating budget. Almost half, $500,000, has already been set aside from general fund reserves in a building and site fund. Another $260,000 will be used for paid staff from state aid and local property tax revenues. Brenner said the last part of the payoff includes $328,000 in Durant money owed to the ISD.

Julie Ann Beckers, the current Miss Michigan, has been on a hectic travel schedule since her reign began last June. Here she takes a moment for travel just for the sport of it— on a snowmobile she received recently.

News & Gazette photo

Jan. 28, 2021

Over 500 tires litter roads through Allegan game areas: Blight has appeared in the news because of its affects on humans, wildlife and the environment. Recently, blight across Allegan County has been in the form of tires. The DNR reported, "A local resident who daily walks in the state game area reported the first pile of tires (more than 300) on Wednesday to the DNR's Report All Poaching hotline. The local confirmed that the tires—which covered snowmobile trail #59, were not there two days prior."

Tracy DenBleyker photographed the dumping of tires in the Allegan State Game Area. "A few weeks ago, it was on 122nd by the transfer station and another pile on 48th by the compost place. This weekend, there's a 200+ tires pile on 120th about a quarter mile east of 51st."

Steven Gilley expanded DenBleyker's observation, "Yes, there are more tires on 120th between 57th and 62nd. Right on the side of the road!"

Linda Caldwell took a picture of more tires she had seen Friday on 120th west of 57th.

Citizens are asking not only who is dumping the tires, but want anyone who observes the dumping to report these actions.

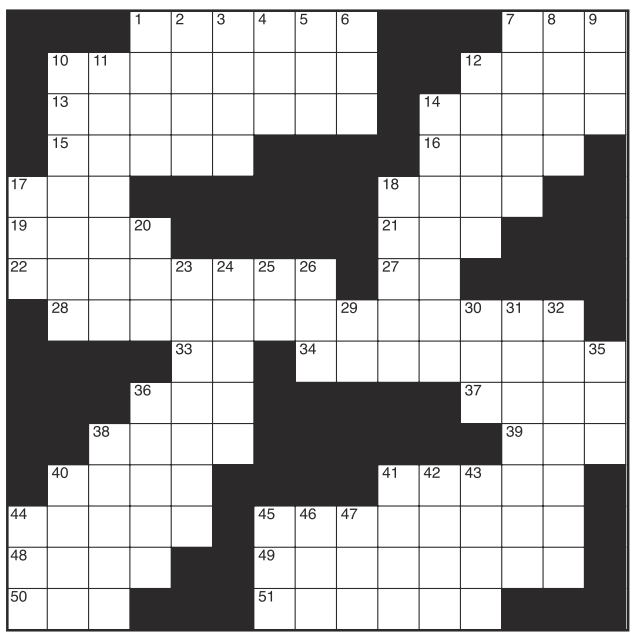
Observations may be similar to those shared by Chuck Weighman. "Someone has been hauling a lot of junk cars down 62nd Street towards 109th this week. There are 3 or 4 vehicles in a row following each other. I wonder if someone is cleaning out some property."

On Sunday, January 24th, Undersheriff Mike Larsen shared, "I also noticed some tires on 120th between 62nd and 57th Streets. I'll make sure the DNR is aware of that, but I'm sure they are as it is north central on the Fennville Farm Unit of the DNR."

—Compiled by Jason Wesseldyk

Amanda Reed "noticed some on the side of the road by 49th and 110th."

Crossword



CLUES ACROSS
1. Mechanical lever
7. Rocky peak
10. Leave a country
12. Discount
13. D.C. ballplayer
14. Partner to 'oohed'
15. Engine sound
16. Japanese ornamental box
17. Fido is one
18. Amounts of time
19. DiFranco and Phyo are two
21. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)
22. Make secret plans
27. 'Tiny Bubbles' singer
28. 'His Airness'
33. Morning
34. Perfected
36. Winger guitarist Beach
37. Abba __, Israeli politician
38. Self-immolation by fire ritual
39. A way to save money
40. Pulpit
41. Make ecstatically happy
44. Once more
45. Works on
48. Nocturnal S. American rodent
49. State again
50. Expression of disappointment
51. Type of door

CLUES DOWN
1. Yugoslavian communist leader
2. Exchange rate
3. High school dance
4. Peter's last name
5. When you anticipate arriving
6. Israeli city __ Aviv
7. Goat-like mammals
8. Margarine
9. End-of-the-spectrum color
10. Make poisonous
11. Popular beverage
12. Actress Lathan
14. Where planes land and depart
17. Political fundraising entity
18. The distinctive spirit of a people or an era
20. Buffer used in microbiology
23. Light, open carriage
24. Metrical feet
25. Email subject line feature
26. A street with lots of nightmares
29. Rapper Rule
30. River in Scotland
31. One who settles a dispute
32. Most chummy
35. We all have our own
36. Arab tribe
38. Slap
40. Ottoman military commanders
41. Scottish or Irish Gaelic language
42. Emit coherent radiation
43. Sun or solar disk (Egyptian mythology)
44. Inclined to
45. Olfactory reference syndrome
46. Chest muscle (slang)
47. Body part

■ see **Solution**, Page B7

Deaths

Nov. 20, 2025
CATHY LOU LLOYDE, 73, Allegan Twp.

Dec. 24, 2025
MICHAEL ANDREW LOUGHEAD, 71, Gun Plain Twp.

Dec. 26, 2025
MICHAEL JAMES OWEN, 42, Allegan

Jan. 1, 2026
DANIEL JOSEPH VANDERLAAN, 58, Cheshire Twp.

Jan. 2, 2026
GEORGE ROGER HUFFMAN, 92, Fillmore Twp.

Jan. 3, 2026
THEODORE EMERY PALS, 65, Salem Twp.
IRENE JEANNETTE RUTLEDGE, 100, Douglas

Jan. 4, 2026
GERALDINE DELORES GROFF, 94, Manlius Twp.

Jan. 5, 2026
DONNA JEAN HAVERDINK, 85, Holland
VIRGINIA JANE VANDEWEGE, 85, Gun Plain Twp.

Jan. 7, 2026
WANDA LEA SCOFIELD, 86, Valley Twp.

Jan. 8, 2026
ENRY STANCLIFF JUNKER JR, 81, Gun Plain Twp.
CAROLYN MAE REDDER, 88, Holland

Marriages

The following people applied for a marriage license between Jan. 6 and Jan. 14:

TREVOR DOUGLAS EYK, Allegan, and **HALEY JUNE WOMBOLDT**, Allegan

ALISON MARIE VANMELLE, Dorr, and **KALOB RICHARD CLARK**, Dorr

MATTHEW JAMES VANORDER, Hamilton, and **ANNE TROIA CHANSKI**, Hamilton

JESSICA MARIE THARNISH, Wayland, and **TRAVIS LEE WALDO**, Wayland

BOBBY LEE VANDINE JR, Hamilton, and **JORDAN DAWN OOMS**, Hamilton

JULIE ANN THOMAS, Shelbyville, and **ISAAC WILLIAM HALSTEAD**, Shelbyville

ABRIEL MARIE MIER, Holland, and **PAYTON HUNTER JAMES VANBUSKIRK**, Holland

SHEA EDWARD SKINNER, Fennville, and **KIRSTIN ANNETTE LOPEZ**, Fennville

SUDOKU

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

1	8							3
		3	6		7			8
	5					7		
7		1			2	3		
			1		9		2	
			4		3		9	
	3				8		6	
5		4	9					

(See Solution Page B7)

Public Notices

ROBERTSON, ANSCHUTZ, SCHNEID, CRANE & PARTNERS, PLLC, MAY BE DEEMED A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT 13010 Morris Road, Suite 450, Alpharetta, GA 30004 ph:470-321-7112 Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in ALLEGAN County, starting promptly at 9:00 am on February 5, 2026 The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information: Name of the mortgagor: MARY JO MCGUCKEN. Default has been made in the conditions of a Mortgage made by MARY JO MCGUCKEN to MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC., AS MORTGAGEE, SOLELY AS NOMIINEE FOR NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC D/B/A MR. COOPER, original Mortgagee, for a mortgage dated December 28, 2021, and recorded on January 10, 2022, in Liber 4718 Page 35 in the Allegan County Register of Deeds. Said Mortgage was then assigned through mesne assignments to SELECT PORTFOLIO SERVICING, INC. as documented by an assignment dated May 29, 2025, and recorded on June 05, 2025, in Liber 5039, Page 316 in the ALLEGAN County Register of Deeds, on which Mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of $68,570.50. Under the power of sale contained in said Mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said Mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue, at the place of holding the Circuit Court within ALLEGAN County, Michigan on February 5, 2026 at 9:00 am. Said premises are located in the city of ALLEGAN in ALLEGAN County, Michigan and are described as: THE CITY OF ALLEGAN, COUNTY OF ALLEGAN AND STATE OF MICHIGAN TO WIT: LOT 5, SAWYER & MCINTOSH'S ADDITION TO THE VILLAGE (NOW CITY) OF ALLEGAN, ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN LIBER 3 OF PLATS, PAGE 1. BEING THAT PARCEL OF LAND CONVEYED TO MARY JO MCGUCKEN, SINGLE FROM LUCINDA H. THIELE A MARRIED WOMAN BY THAT DEED DATED 07/25/2014 IN LIBER 3856, PAGE 294, INSTRUMENT 2014013888, OF THE ALLEGAN COUNTY, MI PUBLIC REGISTRY. ACCORDING TO THE PUBLIC RECORDS, THERE HAS BEEN NO CONVEYANCE OF THE LAND WITHIN A PERIOD OF TWENTY-FOUR MONTHS PRIOR TO THE DATE OF THIS REPORT, EXCEPT AS FOLLOWS: NONE Property Address: 223 NORTH ST. ALLEGAN MI, 49010 Tax ID No. 51-285-005-00 The redemption period shall be Six (6) months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If this property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the Mortgage sale or to the Mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. SELECT PORTFOLIO SERVICING, INC., Mortgagee/Assignee January 1st, 2026 ROBERTSON, ANSCHUTZ, SCHNEID, CRANE & PARTNERS, PLLC Attorney for Mortgagee/Assignee 13010 Morris Road, Suite 450 Alpharetta, GA 30004 Telephone: 470-321-7112 Facsimile: 404-393-1425 Service Email: MIFCLTeam@raslg.com

(01-01)(01-22)

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM on FEBRUARY 5, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.

Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Jerry M. Zachary and Helen M. Zachary, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Heartland Home Mortgage LLC, Mortgagee, dated January 4, 2017 and recorded January 11, 2017 in Liber 4104, Page 615 Allegan County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by Onslow Bay Financial LLC, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Seventy-One Thousand Three Hundred Fifty-Eight and 12/100 Dollars ($71,358.12).

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public vendue at the place of holding the circuit court within Allegan County, Michigan at 9:00 AM on FEBRUARY 5, 2026.

Said premises are located in the Township of Laketown, Allegan County Michigan, and are described as:

That part of the North 1/2 of the East 1/2 of the Northeast fractional 1/4 of Section 3, Town 4 North, Range 16 West, Described as Commencing at the Northeast corner of Section 3, Town 4 North, Range 16 West, Thence North 89 degrees 49' West on the North Section Line 1108.64 feet to the place of beginning of this description, thence South 0 degrees 00' West 250.0 feet, thence South 89 degrees 49' East 78.0 feet, thence South 0 degrees 09' West 553.0 feet, thence North 89 degrees 49' West 142.55 feet, thence North 0 degrees 00' East 803.0 feet to the North Section line, thence South 89 degrees 49' East 66.0 feet to the place of beginning, subject to an easement over the westerly 66 feet.

1748 W 32nd St, Holland, Michigan 49423

The redemption period shall be 12 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.

Dated: January 1, 2026

File No. 25-015739

Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC

Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084

Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400

(01-01)(01-22)

To David Lister, and/or any of his unknown heirs, devisees or assignees: You are being sued by Shangrai La Community, LLC in the Allegan County District Court, Case No. 25-03602-GZ, in a claim and delivery action involving personal property described as: a 1972 Champion Manufactured Home; VIN No. MI4424R112V051812. You must file your answer or take other action permitted by law in Allegan County District Court, at 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010 and serve your answer upon David T. Bowen, Attorney for Plaintiff, whose address is 1042 Terrace Street, Muskegon, MI 49442 on or before February 16, 2026. Failure to comply will result in a judgment by default against any defendant not answering for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

(01-08)(01-22)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on February 5, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Martin L. Shoemaker, a married man

Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC

Date of Mortgage: September 30, 2021

Date of Mortgage Recording: October 18, 2021

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $139,225.96

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Hopkins, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: Lot 1, Shoemaker Subdivision, part of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 12, Town 3 North, Range 13 West, as recorded in Liber 13 of Plats on Pages 66 and 67.

Common street address (if any): 3383 26th St, Hopkins, MI 49328-9738

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

This notice is from a debt collector.

Date of notice: January 8, 2026

Trott Law, P.C.

31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145

Farmington Hills, MI 48334

(248) 642-2515

1581481

(01-08)(01-29)

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following Mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 09:00 AM, on February 19, 2026. The amount due on the Mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default has been made in the conditions of a Mortgage made by Gene Roper and Louise Roper to Wyndham Capital Mortgage, Inc. dated August 25, 2017 and recorded August 30, 2017 in Liber 4171 at Page 811, Allegan County, Michigan. Said Mortgage is now held by Freedom Mortgage Corporation by assignment and/or merger. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of $143,093.05. Said premises are located in Allegan County, Michigan and are described as: The land referred to in this instrument, situated in the City of Allegan, County of Allegan, State of Michigan, is described as follows: Lot 12, Re-plat of part of Lots 3 and 4, Lowes Divisional Map, City of Allegan, Allegan County, Michigan, according to the recorded plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 10 of Plats, Page 35, Allegan County Records. Parcel ID No(s).: 03-51-255-012-00 Said property is commonly known as 258 Lowe St, Allegan, MI 49010. The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages, if any, are limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Please be advised that any third party purchaser is responsible for preparing and recording the Sheriff's Deed. If this is a residential Mortgage, the following shall apply: ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the Mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR. THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT, AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. IF YOU: ARE A DEBTOR IN AN ACTIVE BANKRUPTCY CASE; ARE UNDER THE PROTECTION OF A BANKRUPTCY STAY; OR, HAVE RECEIVED A DISCHARGE IN BANKRUPTCY AND YOU HAVE NOT REAFFIRMED THE DEBT, THIS NOTICE IS FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY AND SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED AS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT FROM YOU PERSONALLY. Dated: January 5, 2026 Attorney for the party foreclosing the Mortgage: Thomas E. McDonald (P39312) Brock & Scott, PLLC 5431 Oleander Drive Wilmington, NC 28403 PHONE: (844) 856-6646 File No. 25-34994

(01-08)(01-29)

STATE OF MICHIGAN

IN THE 48th CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF ALLEGAN

Case No. 25-71465-CZ

HON. MATTHEW ANTKOVIAK

ALLEGAN MOBILE ESTATES, LLC

D/B/A VILLAGE EAST MOBILE HOME PARK, a Michigan Limited Liability Company,

Plaintiff,

VS.

THE ESTATE OF NORMA DEEN BOYNTON (DECEASED), ANY AND ALL HEIRS, and ANY UNKNOWN OWNERS,

Defendant.

Patrick A. Dykstra (P64436)

Jesson & Dykstra PLC

Attorneys for Plaintiff

2010 44th Street, SE

Grand Rapids, MI 49508

(616) 455-5200

law@vandamjesson.com

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

"An action seeking an order that Plaintiff is entitled to a new Mobile Home Title from the Michigan Secretary of State, to a certain 2000 Spring Creek Commander Identification Number: CHINI00460TG located at 1205 Starlite Dr. Lot 82, Allegan, MI 49010, has been commenced by Allegan Mobile Estates, LLC d/b/a Village East Mobile Home Park against the Estate and Heirs of Normal Deen Boynton, and any Unknown Owners in the Allegan County Circuit Court for the State of Michigan. Defendants must answer or take other action permitted by law within 28 days after the last date of publication, If Defendants do not answer or take other action within the time allowed, judgment may be entered for the relief demanded in the complaint."

1-15 1-29

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM on FEBRUARY 19, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.

Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Ezra B. Ling, single man, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Neighborhood Loans, Inc., Mortgagee, dated March 2, 2021 and recorded March 5, 2021 in Liber 4586, Page 247 Allegan County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Eighty-One Thousand Two Hundred Twenty-Four and 57/100 Dollars ($81,224.57).

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Allegan County, Michigan at 9:00 AM on FEBRUARY 19, 2026.

(Continued on Page B7)

TOWNSHIP OF GANGES

COUNTY OF ALLEGAN, STATE OF MICHIGAN
ORDINANCE NO. 67
ADOPTED: JANUARY 13, 2026
EFFECTIVE: JANUARY 30, 2026
AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE GANGES TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE AND IMPOSE A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON RECREATIONAL VEHICLE PARKS AND CAMPGROUNDS

An Ordinance to protect the public health, safety, and welfare by establishing regulations relating to a moratorium on considering applications for recreational vehicle parks and campgrounds while the Township completes a study of the zoning regulations pertaining thereto and possible subsequent revisions to the current Zoning Ordinance; to provide for severability; to repeal all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict therewith; and to provide an effective date.

THE TOWNSHIP OF GANGES
ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN
ORDAINS:

SECTION I
FINDINGS

In accordance with Public Act 246 of 1945, MCL 41.181 et seq., as amended, Ganges Township has determined the following:

1. It has been a significant period of time since the Ganges Township Zoning Ordinance has been studied with regard to recreational vehicle parks and campgrounds as a special use.
2. The Township Board, Planning Commissioners, and members of the public have provided substantial comments and information raising public health, safety, and welfare concerns regarding use of property within the Township for a recreational vehicle park and campground.
3. The Township Board has public health, safety, and welfare concerns regarding the special use of a recreational vehicle park and campground and finds that it requires time to study the zoning regulations with regard to such use.
4. The Township finds that imposing a moratorium upon the consideration of any applications for special use for a recreational vehicle park and campground, on a limited temporary basis, is reasonable and necessary for, among other reasons, the following reasons:
   A. Michigan courts have recognized that a moratorium is a common and legitimate planning tool to preserve the status quo while formulating a development strategy.
   B. The contemplated moratorium would allow the study of the public health, safety, and welfare concerns regarding the special use of a recreational vehicle park and campground and allow for any needed Zoning Ordinance update and implementation process to occur.
   C. The contemplated moratorium would allow the study and possible implementation of revisions to the Zoning Ordinance to occur with citizen input and involvement, public debate, and full consideration of all issues and points of view.
   D. The contemplated moratorium would allow for consideration of changes in land use that have occurred since the provisions regarding recreational vehicles and campgrounds were last addressed.
5. A moratorium should be imposed upon the consideration of any applications for special use recreational vehicle parks and campgrounds until June 30, 2026 or until an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance is adopted, whichever occurs first.

SECTION II
MORATORIUM

A temporary moratorium is imposed on the acceptance and/or processing of applications for RV parks or campgrounds, public or private, as defined by the Township Zoning Ordinance.

SECTION III
AMENDMENT TO GANGES TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE
SECTION 6.2 TABLE OF USES IN THE R/A RESIDENTIAL AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT

Section 6.2 of the Ganges Township Zoning Ordinance, titled "Table of Uses" regarding the R/A Residential/Agricultural District is hereby amended to remove from the Table of Uses: "Campground, public or private."

SECTION IV
AMENDMENT TO GANGES TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE
SECTION 11.2 TABLE OF USES IN THE C COMMERCIAL DISTRICT

Section 11.2 of the Ganges Township Zoning Ordinance, titled "Table of Uses" regarding the C Commercial District is hereby amended to remove from the Table of Uses: "Campground or RV park."

SECTION V
AMENDMENT TO GANGES TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE
SECTION 18.6 SPECIFIC SPECIAL LAND USE STANDARDS

Section 18.6 of the Ganges Township Zoning Ordinance, titled "Specific Special Land Use Standards" is hereby amended to strike Section 18.6(C) in its entirety, and in its place shall be written the following: "Campgrounds, public or private, are subject to a temporary moratorium. Special land use permit applications for campgrounds, public or private, shall not be considered until the moratorium expires."

SECTION VI
TERM OF MORATORIUM

The moratorium imposed by this ordinance will remain in effect until June 30, 2026, or until amendments to the Zoning Ordinance become effective, whichever occurs first. Before this moratorium expires, the Township Board may by resolution extend the moratorium as appropriate to allow sufficient time to complete amendments to its ordinances. If an extension is adopted, the Township will publish notice of the same.

SECTION VII
SEVERABILITY

The provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared to be severable. If any clause, sentence, word, section or provision is hereafter declared void or unenforceable for any reason by a court of competent jurisdiction, it shall not affect the remainder of such ordinance which shall continue in full force and effect.

SECTION VIII
REPEAL

All ordinance or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

SECTION IX
EFFECTIVE DATE

This ordinance shall take effect eight days following publication following adoption.

Robin Phelps, Clerk
Township of Ganges
1904 64th Street
Fennville, MI 49408
269-543-8316

Public Notices

Continued from Page B6

Said premises are located in the City of Plainwell, Allegan County Michigan, and are described as:
Lot 47, Batchelor and Dunham's Addition to the Village (now City) of Plainwell, excepting therefrom a three cornered piece of land lying directly South of Lot No. 49, of the same addition, according to the plat thereof on file and of record in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Allegan County, Michigan, in Liber 43 of Deeds, Page 624.
182 W 1st Ave, Plainwell, Michigan 49080
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.
Dated: January 15, 2026
File No. 25-016268
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400
(01-15)(02-05)

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 a.m. on February 19, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information: Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): James Henry Starling, a single person and Melissa Kay Weimer, a single person. Original Mortgagee: 21st Mortgage Corporation. Date of Mortgage: December 23, 2019. Date of Mortgage Recording: December 26, 2019 in Liber 4415, Page 895, Allegan County Records, Michigan. Amount claimed due on date of notice: two hundred nineteen thousand three hundred fifteen and 54/100 Dollars ($219,315.54), including interest. Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in the Township of Manlius, County of Allegan, State of Michigan, to wit: Remainder of Parent Parcel - Beginning at the North 1/4 post of Section 21, Town 3 North, Range 15 West, Township of Manlius, Allegan County, Michigan; thence South 00 degrees 02 minutes 10 seconds West on the North and South 1/4 line, 1858.42 feet to the centerline of Old Allegan Road; thence North 40 degrees 21 minutes 20 seconds West on same, 954.62 feet; thence North 54 degrees 50 minutes 44 seconds East 437.40 feet; thence North 40 degrees 21 minutes 20 seconds West 600.00 feet; thence North 54 degrees 50 minutes 44 seconds East 13.65 feet; thence East 313.75 feet; thence North 00 degrees 02 minutes 10 seconds East 414.00 feet to the North Section line; thence East on same, 325.00 feet to the place of beginning, and all improvements thereon. Common street address: 5510 130th Avenue, Fennville, Michigan 49408. The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or upon the expiration of the notice required by MCL 600.3241a(c), whichever is later; or unless MCL 600.3240(16) applies. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. This notice is from a debt collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information we obtain will be used for that purpose. This sale may be rescinded or set aside by the foreclosing mortgagee. In such event, damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return or refund of the bid amount tendered at such sale, together with interest. Dated: January 8, 2026 21st Mortgage Corporation, Mortgagee By: Richard A. Green Law Offices of Richard A. Green 30150 Telegraph Road, Ste. 444 Bingham Farms, MI 48025 (248) 924-2354 1/15/26, 1/22/26, 1/29/26, 2/5/26
(01-15)(02-05)

MORTGAGE SALE THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following Mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the Circuit Court in Allegan County, Michigan starting promptly at 9:00 a.m. on February 19, 2026. The amount due on the Mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the Property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county Register of Deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. The Mortgage being foreclosed was given by John E. Parks and Inez Parks, husband and wife and John E. Parks as Trustee of The John E. Parks Living Trust under Agreement dated March 18, 1992 to The United States of America, acting through the Farm Service Agency, United States Department of Agriculture. The Mortgage is dated September 25, 2008 and was recorded on October 16, 2008 in Liber 3269, starting on page 754 of the Allegan County Records. No proceedings have been instituted to recover any part of the debt which is Two Hundred Forty Thousand Eight Hundred Five and 81/100 Dollars ($240,805.81) Dollars as of January 15, 2026. The amount due on the Mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the Property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the Allegan County Register of Deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for their information. The Mortgage will be foreclosed by selling the property described below at a public auction to the highest bidder. The sale will be held on February 19, 2026 at 9:00 a.m., local time, at the East front entrance to the Allegan County Building in Allegan, Michigan, which is the location of the Allegan County Circuit Court. The property will be sold to pay the amount then due on the Mortgage, including interest at the rate of 5.00% per year, legal costs, attorney fees and any taxes or insurance which may be paid by the mortgagee before the sale. The property to be sold is located in Lee Township, Allegan County, Michigan and is more specifically described in the Mortgage as: The East Half of the Northeast Quarter of Section 21, Township 1 North, Range 15 West (the "Property"). The street address of the Property is V/L 54th Street, Allegan, Michigan 49010. The redemption period will expire six (6) months from the date of the sale. The redemption period may be extinguished as provided in MCL 600.3238.Please be advised that if the Property is actually sold at a foreclosure sale pursuant to the procedures provided in MCL 600.3200 et. seq., as is currently anticipated by this Notice of Mortgage Sale, then in such event, the borrowers will be responsible to the person who buys the Property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the Property during the redemption period as provided in MCL 600.3278. Please be further advised that the redemption period may also be extinguished under the circumstances described in MCL 600.3238. The name, address and telephone number of the attorney for the party foreclosing the Mortgage is: John R. Tucker, Esq. WINEGARDEN, HALEY, LINDHOLM, TUCKER & HIMELHOCH, PLC G-9460 S. Saginaw Street, Suite A Grand Blanc, MI 48439 810-767-3600 Dated: January 15, 2026 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ACTING THROUGH THE FARM SERVICE AGENCY, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE PREPARED BY: John R. Tucker, Esq. P-37348 Winegarden, Haley, Lindholm, Tucker & Himelhoch, PLC G-9460 S. Saginaw Street, Suite A Grand Blanc, MI 48439 810-767-3600
(01-15)(02-05)

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in ALLEGAN County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on February 19, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE INFORMATION: Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Miriaixcel Cardona, a married woman, as her sole and separate property, whose address is 5549 109th Avenue, Pullman, Michigan 49450, as original Mortgagors, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Aspire Financial, Inc., d/b/a Aspire Lending, being a mortgage dated November 4, 2015, and recorded on November 13, 2015 in Liber 3980 Page 705, Allegan County Records, State of Michigan and then assigned to NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing, as assignee as documented by an assignment dated April 13, 2022 and recorded on April 13, 2022 in Liber 4750 Page 84, Allegan County Records, Michigan. Said assignment was repeated dated December 21, 2022 and recorded on December 21, 2022 in Liber 4824 Page 933, and on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of SEVENTY-THREE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED AND 28/100 ($73,300.28). Said premises are situated in the Township of Lee, County of Allegan, State of Michigan, and are described as: LOTS 64, 65 AND 66 OF VIO ASHDALE'S ADDITION TO THE VILLAGE OF PULLMAN, ACCORDING TO THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN LIBER 4 OF PLATS ON PAGE 12. Street Address: 5549 109th Avenue, Pullman, Michigan 49450 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA § 600.3241a in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of the sale. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCLA § 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: IF YOU ARE A MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER ON ACTIVE DUTY, IF YOUR PERIOD OF ACTIVE DUTY HAS CONCLUDED LESS THAN 90 DAYS AGO, OR IF YOU HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY,PLEASE CONTACT THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PARTY FORECLOSING THE MORTGAGE AT THE TELEPHONE NUMBER STATED IN THIS NOTICE. Dated: January 15, 2026 For more information, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing: Robert A. Blumberg (P87490), Johnson, Blumberg, & Associates, LLC, 30 North LaSalle St., Suite 3650 Chicago, Illinois, 60602 Telephone: (312) 541-9710 File No.: MI 26 6927
(01-15)(02-05)

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
ALLEGAN COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
FILE NO. N/A
In the matter of the Dorothy J. Meulendyk Declaration of Trust Date of birth: 10/10/1926
TO ALL CREDITORS:*
NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, Dorothy J. Meulendyk died 5/18/2025
There is no personal representative of the decedent's estate to whom Letters of Authority have been issued. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the Trust will be forever barred unless presented to Mark Meulendyk and Pam Biertumpfel, Co-trustees of the Dorothy J. Meulendyk Declaration of Trust, under a Trust Agreement dated March 14, 2008, as amended, within 4 months of the date of publication of this notice.
Miller Johnson
Teresa L. Rajala P83305
100 W. Michigan Ave, #200
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
(269) 226-2950
Mark Meulendyk
2716 Parkwyn Drive
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49008
269-207-3336
Pamela Biertumpfel
19290 Lake Forest Drive
Penn Valley, CA 95946
530-913-3042

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on February 19, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Emily Capitano-Kosanke and Steven Kosanke, wife and husband
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): PennyMac Loan Services, LLC
Date of Mortgage: January 29, 2021
Date of Mortgage Recording: February 9, 2021
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $122,446.05
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Charter Township of Gunplain, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: The West 1/2 Lot 28 of Gores Addition and Lot 29 of Gores Addition, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Liber 6 of Plats, on Page 27, Allegan County Records.
Common street address (if any): 1053 Bloomfield Ave, Plainwell, MI 49080-1505
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: January 22, 2026
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1582863
(01-22)(02-12)

TO ALL PERSONS, whose address is unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:
TAKE NOTICE: HEATHER ZIMMERMAN has filed a petition to change the name of AVA GRACE HILLYER to AVA GRACE HILLYER-ZIMMERMAN,
SKYLA ROSE HARIG to SKYLA ROSE ZIMMERMAN
DEEGAN JAMES HARIG to DEEGAN JAMES ZIMMERMAN
The matter is pending before Judge JOLENE CLEARWATER at ALLEGAN COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT, 113 CHESTNUT ST. ALLEGAN, MI 49010
A motion to intervene in this matter by a person with the same or a similar name to show fraudulent intent must be filed on or before FEBRUARY 10, 2026

Notice to Creditors
Estate of James Lewis Morre III
Date of Birth: February 27, 1950
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, James Lewis Morre III, of 3645 Holiday Drive, Allegan County, Michigan died December 27, 2025.
Creditors of James Lewis Morre III are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to: Heroldene E. Moore, Trustee of the Moore Protection Trust, u/a/d February 5, 2025, care of Carrier Law, P.C., 4965 East Beltline Avenue NE, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49525 within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
January 9, 2026
David L. Carrier P41531
4965 East Beltline Avenue NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49525 (616) 361-8400
Heroldene E. Moore
3645 Holiday Drive
Hamilton, MI 49419

PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF HEARING
STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF ALLEGAN
FILE NO. 25-65427-GM
In the matter of KEATON JOSEPH STEVENSON
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including:
JAMES SCHWARTZ
whose address(es) is/are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:
TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held on MARCH 23, 2026 at 9:00 A.M. at 113 CHESTNUT STREET, ALLEGAN, MI 49010 before Judge JOLENE CLEARWATER P74848 for the following purpose: REVIEW MINOR GUARDIANSHIP HEARING
01/16/2026
ALLEGAN COUNTY PROBATE COURT
113 CHESTNUT STREET
ALLEGAN, MI 49010
269-673-0250

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
ALLEGAN COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. 25-65997-DE and JUDGE
Court address 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010
Court telephone no.(269) 673-0250
Estate of Calvin J. DeGood Date of Birth:*06/13/1958
TO ALL CREDITORS: **
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Calvin J. DeGood, died 11/15/2025 .
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Scott DeGood and/or Brian DeGood, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
1/13/2026
Neil P. Jansen P41922
900 Monroe Ave NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
616-632-8000
Scott DeGood
4145 24th St.
Dorr, MI 49323
Brian DeGood
737 120th Ave
Martin, MI 49070
616-550-8505

ALLEGAN COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS Trust
In the matter of the Mary E. Schakel Declaration of Trust established June 19, 2013, restated January 24, 2023, amended September 11, 2023
Mary Elizabeth Schakel was the grantor of the Trust and her date of birth was April 22, 1947.
TO ALL CREDITORS: **
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Mary Elizabeth Schakel, died December 16, 2025.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the trust will be forever barred unless presented to Earle Benjamin Schakel, Trustee, within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
P. Haans Mulder P61842
321 Settlers Road
Holland, MI 49423
616-392-1821
Earle Benjamin Schakel
2095 South Shore Drive
Holland, MI 49423
616-510-3568

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
ALLEGAN COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. 25-65943-DE and JUDGE
Court address 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010
Court telephone no.(269) 673-0250
Estate of Julie Marie Lenhart Date of Birth:*11/05/1969
TO ALL CREDITORS: **
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Julie Marie Lenhart, died 03/03/2024.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Kristine Mulder, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
01/12/2026
Jessica Blake P79847
PO Box 7038
Huntington Woods MI 48070
313-424-8685
Kristine Mulder
5125 Creekview Dr SE
Kentwood MI 49508

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE DUTY. ATTN PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Under the power of sale contained herein in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or a cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on March 5, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE SALE – Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Joseph J. Laroy Married Man and Pricilla Laroy, His Wife, original mortgagors, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. (MERS), as nominee for Decision One Mortgage Company, LLC, dated September 27, 2004, and recorded September 30, 2004 in Liber 2738, Page 108, in Allegan County records, Michigan, and assigned to Household Finance Corporation III by an Assignment of Mortgage recorded on November 12, 2008 in Liber 3275, Page 667, and assigned to Household Finance Corporation III by an Assignment of Mortgage recorded on April 10, 2012 in Liber 3607, Page 376, and assigned to U.S. Bank Trust, N.A., as Trustee for LSF8 Master Participation Trust by an Assignment of Mortgage recorded on February 24, 2014 in Liber 3816, Page 688, and assigned to U.S. Bank Trust, National Association, as Trustee of the FW Series I Trust by an Assignment of Mortgage recorded on May 12, 2020 in Liber 4461, Page 226, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Thirty Three Thousand Five Hundred Ninety One and 42/100 dollars ($133,591.42). Said premises are situated in the Township of Otsego, County of Allegan, and State of Michigan, and particularly described as: Lot 5, Oak View Farm, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Liber 15 of Plats, Page 66, Allegan County Records. Property Address:282 Zak Road, Plainwell, MI 49080 Parcel No.: 17-660-005-00 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Dated: January 29, 2026 For more information, please call: (513) 444-4100 Sottile and Barile PLLC Attorneys for Plaintiff 394 Wards Corner Boulevard, Suite 180 Loveland, OH 45140 File MF2410006 - Laroy, Joseph J.
(01-29)(02-19)

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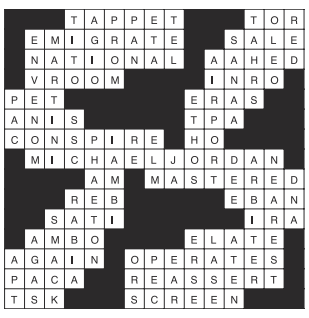

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Babylon Road, Allegan

RELIGION SECTION

Decades ago, our local newspaper published a 60-year-old photograph and article about Reverend and Mrs. Mettam shortly after his ordination into the Methodist church. Both of them were wearing industrial strength full length buffalo coats to protect them from the cold Minnesota winters.

He was still serving a church when I was a boy, and I asked him about the proverbial good old days. His first response was that they were not always so good. Then he added that sometimes the congregations could be as rough as a blizzard. "The national church handed down rules in the Book of Discipline, but a lot of the time individual churches added their own." At one church he was told that chocolate was forbidden because the local board thought it was a prideful extravagance. He laughed and said that even when they were out of town they did not dare eat anyone because someone might see them.

At another church, when the Mettams were expecting their first child, the board came to the parsonage to tell them, after much nervous hemming and hawing, that Mrs. M should not return to church until after the child was born. Their message was hideous: We know preacher's kids are born like everyone else, but it upsets people to be reminded that you have been doing "it" in their parsonage. Reverend Mettam said, "And that was no way to live. The church board was wrong, and we were just as wrong for not standing up to them."

We find the same situation in the 14th chapter of Romans where Paul writes about the church being divided on whether members could or could not eat meat. They appeal to Paul for guidance, and at first, his answer seems to suggest that only the weak in faith are strict vegans. Read it again, and a different message becomes obvious.

If we follow the first line of thinking, we miss the important message. Whether one is a vegan or carnivore or paleo, does not matter. Nor does one's personal preference for strong cheese sardine and onion sandwiches, or any other food. Such things do not make one a good or bad Christian. Indeed, in this situation, the question of virtue should not arise.

The German theologian Dietrich Bonheoffer wrote, "He who loves his dream of a community more than the Christian community itself becomes the destroyer of the latter, even though his personal intentions may be ever so honest and earnest and sacrificial. When our vision of things should look like leads us to trample the people who are actually in the pews, we destroy our community."

St. Paul puts the emphasis on looking past individual choices and working toward such good relationships that we truly are brothers and sisters united in one faith and one community. Instead of trampling over people, our task is to be tolerant, open, and welcoming to all people, most especially to those with whom we disagree.

G C Stoppel
Priest Associate
Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, Allegan, MI

Directory of Area Churches

Allegan Assembly of God
424 DeLano St, Allegan
Pastors Tim Heath & Paul Hays
Church: 673-6577

Allegan Bible Church
412 S. Sherman, Allegan
Pastor Jon Gruss
Church: 673-6831

Allegan Christian Center
700 Ely St., Allegan
Paul Knuckles, Pastor
Church: 673-2921

Allegan County Jail
Chaplain Sarah Montgomery
Phone: 673-0350

Allegan United Methodist Church
Corner Walnut & Trowbridge streets, Allegan
Pastor Julia Humenik
Church: 673-4236;

At the Master's Feet
814 21st St., Otsego
269-694-6897
Paster Ray Brown

Blessed Sacrament Church
110 N. Cedar Street, Allegan
Fr. Simon Manjooran
Church: 673-4455

Bloomingdale Bible Church
210 Chestnut at Pine NW
Bloomin gdale
Ofc. 269-427-2101

Bravo Community Church
5587 113th Ave., Fennville
Pastor Duane Terpstra
616-886-1214

Burnips United Methodist
4241 30th, Burnips
Craig VanBeek, Pastor
616-896-8410

Calvary Church of Wayland (IFCA)
304 S. Main Street, Wayland
Pastor Chad Peckham
ccwayland.org

Casco United Methodist Church
880 66th Street, South Haven
Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.
269-227-3328
www.cascoumc.org

Chicora Country Chapel
4399 108th Ave., Allegan
Pastor Herb Curry
Phone: 269-370-5834

Christ Community Church
3370 113th Ave., Allegan
www.alleganccc.org ·
(269) 673-2329
Pastor Wally Coots

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
687 Linn Street, Allegan
Church: 673-9617

Church of God - Otsego
112 Kalamazoo St., Otsego
Pastor Stephen Burrow Sr.
269-694-9481
www.otsegocog.com

Corner Bible Church
4001 124th Allegan
www.cornerbiblechurch.com

CrossWind Community Church
1632 142nd Avenue
Dorr, MI 49323
616-359-9013
Pastor Tommy Boutell

Dunningville Reformed Church
2559 M-40, Allegan
Church: 751-5894
Pastor Eric Burrows-Stone
dunningville.org/index.html

East Martin Christian Reformed Church
510-118th Ave., Martin
269-672-5746
www.eastmartincrc.org

Epiphany Lutheran Church (LCMS)
4219 Parklane, Dorr
www.epiphanydorr.org
Sunday service at 9:15 a.m., Bible Study and Sunday School following

Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd
101 North Walnut St, Allegan
Office: 673-2254

Faith Baptist Church
2846 125th Ave., Allegan
John Looman, Pastor
673-5040 1-888-354-3272

Fennville Assembly of God
5897 124th Ave.
Fennville, MI 49408
269-561-2683

Fennville United Methodist Church
5849 124th St., Fennville
269-561-5048
Bob Lynch, Pastor
www.fennvilleumc.org

First Presbyterian Church
200 Cutler Street, Allegan
Church: 673-4631
www.fpcallegan.org
10:00 service time.

First Baptist Church
1290 32nd St., Allegan
Service at 10:00am
Pastors Nathan Smith & Brendon Bayley
www.fbcallegan.com

First Baptist Church of Otsego
247 E Allegan St., Otsego
(269) 694-4160
firstbaptist@fbcotsego.org

First Church of God
1313 Marshall Street, Allegan
269 673-3881
www.pathtohim.org
Pastor, Tim Secord

First Congregational Church
323 Cutler Street, Allegan
Church Office: 673-3139
Pastor Todd Wagner

First Congregational Church
120 W. Morrell St., Otsego
269-694-6085
Pastor Lenny Luchetti

First Presbyterian Church of Plainwell
303 East Bridge St.
Plainwell, MI 49080
685-5990

Friendship Bible Church
104 Baker St., Hopkins, MI
Pastor Chris Cronk and Worship Pastor Tony Caldarona
Office 793-7929

Ganges Baptist Church
6577 122nd Avenue, Fennville
269-543-4203
11AM each Sunday

Ganges United Methodist Church
2218 68th St
Fennville MI 49408
Phone 269-543-3581
Lay Minister - Marcia A. Tucker

Grace Church of Hamilton
3690 Lincoln Rd. P.o. Box 97
Hamilton Mi 49419
269.264.4900
Gracechurchofhamilton@gmail.com

Hope Lutheran Church
290 12th St., Plainwell
(269) 685-1348
Pastor Nicole Smith
Worship 10:30am; S. School 9:15am

Hopkins Community Reformed Church
2142 128th Ave., Hopkins
(269) 793-7361
hopkinscommunitychurch.net

Hopkins United Methodist Church
322 N. Maple St., Hopkins
(269) 793-7323
Pastor Kelsey French

Horseshoe Community Bible Church
4950 104th Avenue, Grand Junction
269-521-4580 ·
Pastor Don Miller

Immanuel Lutheran Church
631 Grand Street, Allegan
Church: 673-3335
Rev. Christopher Laughlin

Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witness
2199 Taft Road, Allegan
Phone: 673-6179

Living Waters Community Church
5458 M-89, Fennville
Service: 10:30 Sundays
Pastor Andrew Leach
269-561-5277

Martin Reformed Church
1073 W. Allegan St., Martin
Pastor: Matthew Hendricks
672-5596

Martin United Methodist Church
969 E. Allegan St., Martin
Pastor Margaret Stoken
269-672-7097
www.martinumc.org

Merson Church
3313 102nd Ave., Gobles, MI
Office: 673-5274
www.mersonchurch.org

Montage Ministries
"A Community in Worship"
Griswold Auditorium
Tuesdays 6:30-8:00pm

Monterey Center United Methodist Church
3022 130th Ave.
Monterey Center, 49328
Craig VanBeek, Pastor
793-7288

Mt. Calvary M.B. Church
5425 105th Ave., Pullman
Pastor Everett Belue
269-382-3405

New Hope Baptist Church
2011 Lincoln Road (M-40 N)
Pastor Tadd Butler
673-1938

Northbridge Church
8824 Douglas, Kalamazoo
269-385-4378 ·
www.northbridge.cc

Northpoint Ministries
04077 M40 (M40/CR390)
Gobles MI · 269.628.9199
Pastor Gary Lounsberry
Sunday Worship: 11am

OAKLAND CRC
4460 38th Street
Hamilton. Mi. 49419
616 688 5290
Pastor Mark Vande Zande

Otsego United Methodist Church
223 E Allegan St. Otsego MI
10:00 a.m. Worship
Reverend Dan Minor
Otsegomethodistchurch.org

Pathfinder North Church
(A Global Methodist Church)
532 M 89, Otsego, MI 49078
9:30 Fellowship 10:00 Worship
Rev Ron Hansen
Pathfindernorth.com

Peace Lutheran Church
805 S. Wilmott St., Otsego
www.peaceotsego.com
694-6104

Pearl United Methodist Church
1689 56th St., Fennville
269-561-5048 Worship 9:30 am
Bob Lynch, Pastor
www.fennvilleumc.org

Pentecostal Church of God I.M
2281 57th St, Fennville
Wed/Miércoles @ 7:00 pm
Sunday/Domingo @ 10:00 am
Worship Service @ 11:00am
Rev. Jeremias & Maribel Gaytan
231) 923-6887 - (231) 923-6959
Email: gytnj@yahoo.com

Plainwell Church of Christ
911 James St.
Plainwell, Michigan 49080

Plainwell First Baptist Church
404 W. Bridge St., Plainwell
(269) 685-8888
Pastor George Osborn

Plainwell First United Methodist Church
200 Park St. Plainwell
269-685-5113
www.fumcplainwell.com

Rectify Church
247 N. Main St., Allegan
616-218-1556
Pastor Sarah Montgomery

Redemption Place Church of God
1900 M-40, Allegan
Pastor Deborah Lesher
Church: 269-355-1167

Refreshing Springs Ministries
201 Briggs St., Allegan
616-510-7416
Pastor Adrian Hall

River of Life Church
605 W. Allegan, Otsego
269-672-9904
www.alleganchurch.com

Seventh Day Adventist Church
229 Cutler Street, Allegan
Dan Rachor, Pastor
Church: 673-3284

Shelbyville United Methodist Church
938 124th Ave., Shelbyville
672-7097 - Church office
Pastor Margaret Stoken

South Monterey United Methodist Church
Pastor Kelsey French
Church: 793-7323

St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church
11850 9 Mile Rd., Shelbyville
269-664-4345
Service: Sundays 9:30 am

Saint John's Church Of God In Christ
716 Academy St, Allegan
Rev. Jeremiah Johnson Sr.
Phone: 673-8590—673-3007

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
1764 34th St., Allegan
Pastor Ronald Kruse 673-2079
Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.

St. Margaret's Catholic Church
766 S. Farmer St., Otsego
269-694-6311

Third Coast Community Church
www.thirdcoastff.org |
269.857.5633
6069 Blue Star Hwy, Saugatuck, MI 49453
Sunday Worship: 10:00am

Trowbridge Community Church
355 26th Street, Otsego
Pastor Mykel Hall, Pastor
Church: 673-5502

Unity Baptist Church
35 14 12th St. Wayland
Pastor Kelly Ryan
Cell # (269) 330-2217

Watson Bible Church
1626 116th St., Otsego
Pastor Tim Morris
672-2166

Wayland Community Church
502 West Superior, Wayland
(616) 877-6134
Worship Sunday @ 10:30am

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809 Airway Dr. – Highland Industrial Park
269-673-8488

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1173 Lincoln Rd., Allegan
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